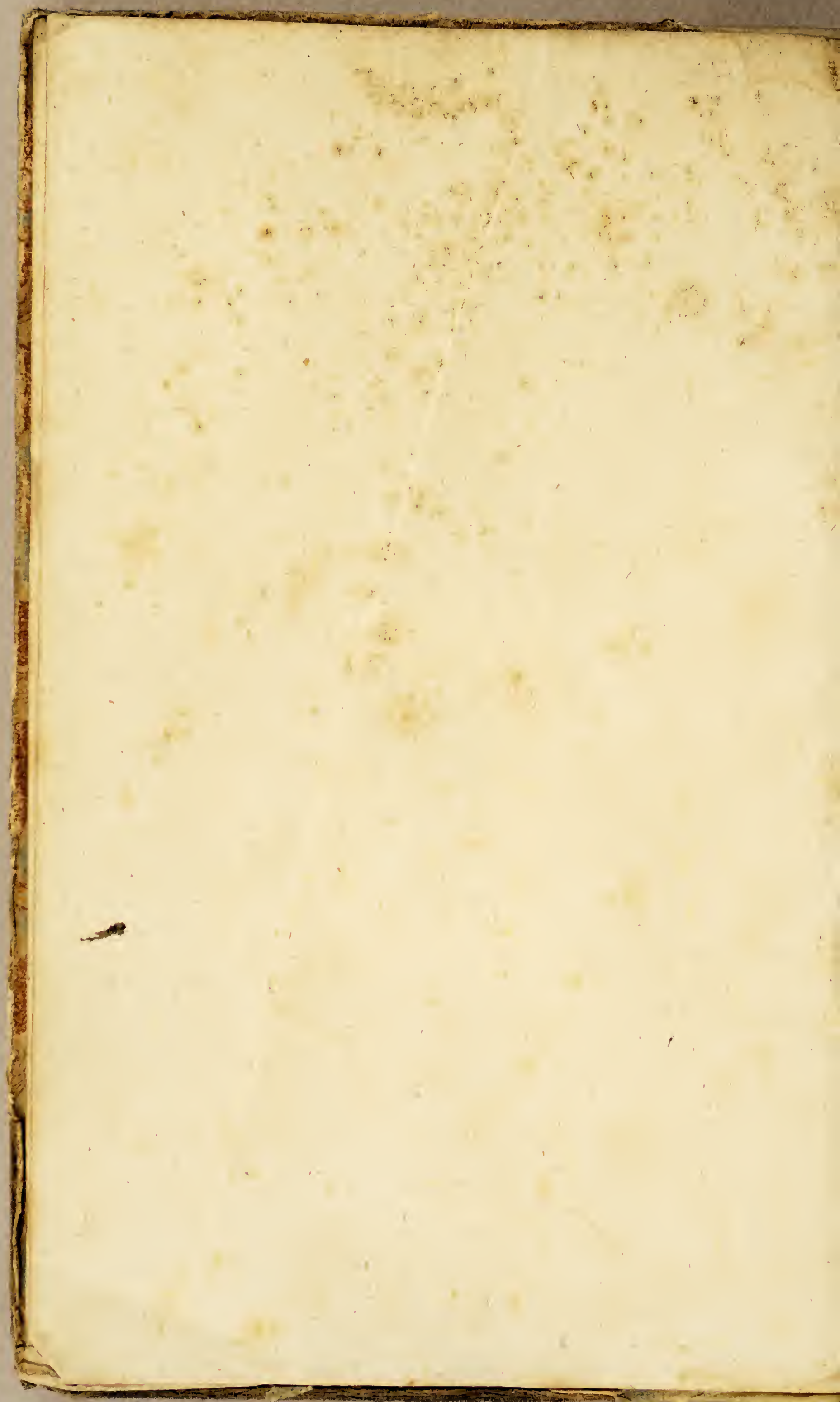




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Foe to all party, but the public weal.* WHITEHEAD.

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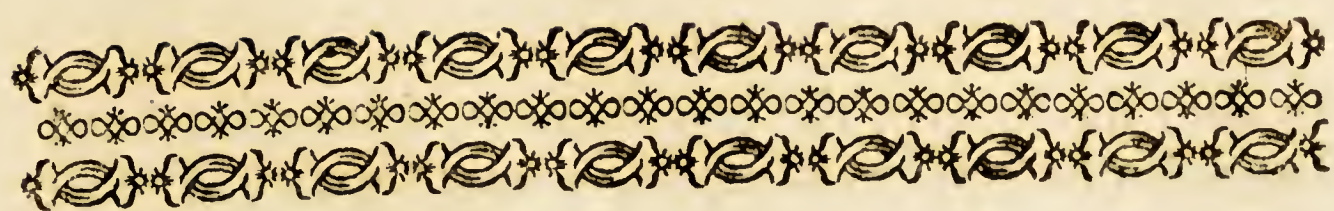
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**** There is no reign in the British History, that has been chequered with a greater number of important events, than that of George II. therefore no period in it can be more interesting: every man ought to be acquainted with it, because no knowledge can be more useful and entertaining, than that which is contained in the History of his own times. He will here find a view of the politics of the age, embellished with the sentiments of many great men: likewise a detail of all the transactions of the reign, both at home and abroad; and many observations designed for the unintelligent. To be brief, accurate, and perspicuous, has been every where the author's aim: he has pursued truth without meaning to offend; and being entirely disinterested, has, throughout the whole, spoke with that freedom, candour, and honesty, which ought to distinguish every unbiassed writer.*

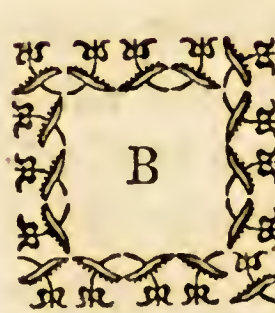


A

REVIEW

OF THE

REIGN of GEORGE II.

 BEFORE we enter into a detail of the transactions of this reign, it may not be amiss to take a retrospect of those affairs which were the principal causes of elevating the house of Hanover to the throne of Great Britain.

It will afford us an opportunity for introducing the Act of Settlement; a matter of so much consequence to every Briton that he ought to hold the contents of it in memory; by which he will be enabled to judge for himself, when the privileges of his country have been violated; and thereby spare us the disagreeable trouble of making many remarks, which otherwise might be thought necessary. The family of the Stuarts continued in possession of the diadem without any disputes founded on constitutional principles, till James the second; who, by his mistaken notions of the prerogative, and excessive bigotry to the church of Rome, brought ruin on himself: he had violated the laws and liberties of the nation; he attempted

B

to

to alter the form of the government, from a legal and limited monarchy to a despotic power: guilty of these crimes, is not to be supposed he could long reign over a free people. It is sufficient to observe here, that they dethroned him, and by declaring the throne vacant, excluded from hereditary right his infant son. The people appointed for his successor his eldest daughter Mary, who was married to the prince of Orange; but she declining to reign alone, and he to have any share in the government, unless invested with royalty also, they were elected by the people king and queen. At the beginning of this reign, a bill was brought into the house of commons for settling the succession of the crown on only protestant heirs, and disabling all papists, and all who married papists, from any right to the succession; and in that case, absolving the subject from allegiance; and also recommending the princess Sophia, dutchess of Hanover, and her posterity, as successors, in case the king, and his sister-in-law, the princess Anne, should die without issue; but this bill did not then pass into a law, occasioned by the princess Anne's being delivered of a son, who was created duke of Gloucester. Unfortunately in the year 1700 this prince died, upon which the parliament again took into consideration the security of the protestant succession; but before they nominated the person on whom, or whose heirs the succession should be settled, they agreed to the following resolutions, of which the Act of Settlement is composed.

“ That whoever shall hereafter come to the possession of this crown, shall join in communion with the church of England as by law established: That in case the crown and imperial dignity of this realm shall hereafter come to any person, not being a native of this kingdom of England, this nation be not obliged to engage in any war for the defence of any dominions or territories which do not belong to the crown of England, without the consent of parliament: That no person who shall hereafter come to the possession of the crown, shall go out of the
 dominion

dominions of England, Scotland, or Ireland, without consent of parliament: That from and after that time, that the further limitation by this act shall take effect, all matters and things relating to the well governing of this kingdom, which are properly cognizable in the privy-council, by the laws and customs of the realm, shall be transacted there, and all resolutions taken thereupon, shall be signed by such of the privy-council as shall advise and consent to the same: That after the limitation shall take effect, no person born out of the kingdom of England, Scotland, or Ireland, or the dominions thereunto belonging, although he be naturalized, and made a denizen (except such as are born of English parents) shall be capable to be of the privy-council, or a member of either house of parliament, or to enjoy any office or place of trust, either civil or military, or to have any grant of lands, tenements, or hereditaments from the crown to himself, or to any others in trust for him: That no person who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a pension from the crown, shall be capable of serving as member of parliament of the house of commons: That after the limitation shall take effect, judges commissions be made, *quamdiu se bene gesserint*, and their salaries ascertained and established; but, upon the address of both houses of parliament, it may be lawful to remove them: That no pardon under the great seal of England be pleadable to an impeachment by the commons in parliament. Having settled these preliminaries, they resolved, That the princess Sophia, dutchess dowager of Hanover, be declared the next in succession to the crown of England, in the protestant line, after his majesty and the princess, and the heirs of their bodies respectively: and, That the further limitation of the crown be to the said princess Sophia and the heirs of her body, being protestants. A bill being formed

on these resolutions, was sent up to the house of lords, where it passed without amendments, and received the royal assent."

Anne ascended the throne in the steps which William had prepared for her: She did not in the least derogate from the tenor of the act of succession; she, on the contrary, strengthened it with many marks of royal approbation; and lastly, obliged her natural enemy, the French king, to abandon the pretender, acknowledge her title, and the protestant succession to the crown of Great Britain, by the treaty of Utrecht. The princess Sophia being dead at this time, her son George Lewis, elector of Hanover, ascended the throne of Great Britain on the death of Queen Anne, by the name of George the first.

At the conclusion of his reign, the affairs of Great Britain were intricate and perplexed by foreign connections, which were not only alien, but even prejudicial to its interests. The best politicians in the kingdom affirmed, that the state was sunk into such a labyrinth, that the ministers, in considering and providing for the interests of extraneous allies, lost themselves in the maze, and forgot the duty they owed to their country: the nation at this time was distracted within itself by violent factions; the tories, or the country party, who adhered to the antient constitution of the state, and the apostolical hierarchy of the church of England, who were the land-holders and proprietors of the kingdom, and were consequently a respectable body, had been excluded from all share of the royal favour. The sovereign had been strongly prepossessed against them, though they were not enemies to the protestant succession, and would probably have served him with fidelity and affection. Thus alienated from his friendship, they openly expressed their dislike of his person and government: Their leaders were men of property and extraordinary abilities, learned, experienced, bold, shrewd, and
sarcastic:

farcaſtic: poſſeſſed of theſe advantages, it was impoſſible their ſpeeches and remonſtrances ſhould fail of making a ſenſible impreſſion on the minds of the people; and by taking the popular ſide of every queſtion, though hardly ever ſucceſſfully, they initiated themſelves intirely into their favour.

The whigs, or the courtiers, who were the oppoſite faction, were gratified with places, penſions, and many other marks of royal favour: they were termed courtiers, becauſe they were united in a ſteady adherence to promote the meaſures of the government implicitly. They conſtituted the majority in both houſes of parliament, by well known means; their leaders were buſy, petulant, poſitive, vain, and verbose; their beſt ſpeakers were neither nervous nor elegant, though ſometimes plauſible; they were illiterate, ignorant, noiſy, pedantic, and in general void of intellects; their arguments were ſeldom concluſive, and always buried in harangue, which was blunt, aukward, and ſlovenly. In their miniſterial capacity, they were elated, proud, and overbearing, and void of dignity and addreſs; they have been accuſed of being ignorant of the laws and conſtitution of their country; or if not, guilty of crimes which were by that means doubly iniquitous; their conſtant compliances rendered them odious; they entertained a violent hatred to the tories, whom they conſidered as their implacable enemies. The real deſign of this faction, which had been originally inſtituted in oppoſition to epiſcopacy, was ſunk in the party rage of politics. The jacobites, or the friends of hereditary right, and adherents to the male line of the Stuarts, who, even at this time, were not an inconfiderable number, lay almoſt dormant; they were cool, cunning, and prying; they inherited a vindictive ſpirit, which they hoped the other two violent factions would ſhortly afford them an opportunity to diſplay. A coalition of the two former parties

parties would have totally blasted every gleam of hope in the latter. The king died at Osnabrug in Germany, on the 11th day of June, 1727.

On the fourteenth, an express arrived in London, with an account of his death, upon which his son, the prince of Wales, removed from Richmond to Leicester house; and very early notified his intentions of preserving the constitution in church and state, and adhering to the same principles of government which his father had established. Next day he was proclaimed, and the parliament met, and were prorogued to the 27th. Though the nation, at this time, greatly wished for an alteration of measures, yet the influence of base men, rather increased than diminished. The man who affected to act in the capacity of prime minister, was said to be at the head of all corruption, from his common practice of dealing with every man according to his price; his extraordinary talents had raised him from a low beginning; he was a warm whig, because he found his interest in it; and he thrust himself up to the head of that faction, because he was ambitious of being in power; he unweariedly employed all his abilities to the ——— of his country, by prostituting its constitution; he enlisted in his service the most abandoned emissaries, whom he engaged to support and vindicate measures which were big with infamy: he looked upon all science as mechanical; and he knew no other trades but those of stock-jobbing and felling——in ———. He was aided by a band of——who possessed the same sentiments, but not equal abilities; who were dead to every spark of public spirit, honour and virtue; who were grown old in the practices of luxury, prostitution and vice; who squandered away the money of the nation, on the most shameful and iniquitous purposes; who, to vindicate their own proceedings, or rather to prevent their being enquired into, kept a standing army, and made the people habitual to it; who
in-

infringed on the franchise of their constitution; and who, in the face of sense, truth, and justice, branded, as enemies to the royal family, all who doubted the uprightness of their measures.

At the meeting of the Parliament, pursuant to their prorogation, addressees of condolance and congratulation were presented; and the commons, on a motion made by Sir Robert Walpole, took into consideration a supply for the King; he remarked, that the annual sum of 700,000*l.* settled on the late king, had fallen short every year; and as the family of the new king was likely to increase, he thought that the intire revenues of the civil list, amounting to 800,000*l.* *per annum* should be granted. It produced a violent debate; Mr. Shippen, one of the leaders in the opposition, who was shrewd and bold, affirmed, that a great saving might be made out of many personal expences, particularly those attending frequent journies to Hanover, which he hoped would be discontinued; that it did not become them, as representatives, to give away the public money, without having a strict observance on frugality; he expatiated, and paid great encomiums on Queen Anne's œconomy; he was severe on the enormous sums which had been sunk in the mysterious and unfathomable gulph of *secret* services in the late reign; on the many occasional taxes, and on the vast sums implicity granted for purposes, which only a few were acquainted with; and he heartily wished that the concealed iniquities of the hired slaves, and corrupt instruments of the administration, were brought to light, who had been perverted from public duty by private pensions; and lastly, he proposed granting the same sum to the king which his father had been endowed with.

As it was impossible to frame an answer to this speech, none was attempted; therefore the house agreed to the motion of granting the king the clear sum of 700,000*l.* *per annum*. At this time the commons

mons receiv'd a message from the king, requesting a further provision for his queen; upon which they resolved, that in case she survived him, to grant her 100,000*l.* *per annum* for life, charged on the revenues of the civil list, and the palace of Somerset house and lodge, and the lands of Richmond old Park. Then the Parliament was prorogued, and soon after dissolved.

The changes which followed were extremely few. The secretaries of state were the lord Townshend and the duke of Newcastle, as before; Mr. Pelham, the duke's brother, was secretary at war; Sir Robert Walpole, chancellor of the exchequer and first lord of the treasury; by which he was considered as prime minister*; The earl of Chesterfield was ambassador to the Hague, and lord Carteret, lord lieutenant of Ireland.

Though the people, in general, shewed a great dislike to the administration, yet the power of money operated so strongly in their favour at most of the elections, that a majority was secured according to their wish. When the parliament met, Arthur Onslow, Esq; was unanimously chosen speaker; he was a gentleman who possessed an extensive knowledge, was grave and eloquent, and by all parties allowed impartial and virtuous. The king opened the session, with a speech, expressing his desire of reducing the expence of the public money, as soon as it could be done to their interest and safety; of seeing an established scheme for the encouragement of seamen, in order to avoid pressing; and he concluded, with recommending unanimity for the dispatch of public business. This speech, as is common, was undoubtedly

* It was in this capacity he was odious to the people. They could not help looking with abhorrence on a premier whose office is inconsistent with the constitution; according to which, in affairs of the government, the king ought to have no favourites.

edly penned by the minister, and put into the mouth of majesty only to sooth the minds of the people into an acquiescence of his measures; but it was by many suspected to be without any real intention of complying with the tenor of it. The addresses of the two houses, in return, were, as usual, the echoes of the speech. The king ordered the estimates to be laid before the commons; and they voted 22,955 men for guards and garrisons, and 15,000 seamen, for the service of the next year: the former occasioned a debate, wherein it was urged, that a numerous standing army was dangerous to the constitution; but the ministry carried their point by a very great majority. The sum of 230,923l. was granted to maintain 12,000 Hessian auxiliaries, which also occasioned a dispute; but the ministry triumphed. Then a subsidy of 50,000l. was granted to the king of Sweden, in consequence of a convention which the late king in the last year of his reign had made with him, promising to pay 50,000l. annually for three years, in consideration of his holding 10,000 men ready to march to the relief of Hanover if it should be attacked; and half that sum to the duke of Brunswic Wolfenbuttle: in short, the expences of the year, though in a time of public tranquillity, amounted to four millions! which were raised by a land-tax of three shillings in the pound, a malt-tax, and by borrowing of the Bank 1,750,000l. for which annuities, raised by duty on coals imported into London, were given, amounting to 70,000l *. An additional tax

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on

* When this loan was deliberated upon, Mr. William Pulteney, a gentleman of extraordinary abilities, learning, experience and knowledge; well read in history and politics, and better acquainted with the British constitution, finances and government, than any, or all the ministers, very judiciously remarked, that the shifting of funds was only perpetuating taxes, and putting off the evil day; that the sinking fund was no other than a pompous project;

on coals could not fail alarming the citizens of London, as it affected them only ; therefore the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council, presented a petition, praying, that such a tax might not be laid ; for the duties already on coals affected the trade of the city, discouraged their manufactures, and was a great hardship on the trading inhabitants : however, in spite of humanity, their petition was rejected, and the tax was imposed.

The house addressed the king, for an account how the money was expended which had been granted the year before, which was laid before them ; except 250,000*l.* not mentioned ; for a distinct and peculiar account of which, they addressed him again ; but he declined their request, by answering, part had been expended by his father, and the remainder by himself, on some services which required the greatest secrecy. This answer was absolutely unparliamentary, and would thirty years before, have raised a dangerous ferment in the house. Mr. Pulteney strongly censured such an unparliamentary answer, and vague, and general way of accounting for public money. It was urged, that if such frivolous answers were accepted, which might be given with equal propriety on every enquiry how the public money is expended, they rendered the use of parliaments unnecessary, and covered the embezzlements of corrupt and rapacious ministers. The commons next took into consideration the state of the national debt ; and having examined the accounts, and interrogated proper

project ; and since it had been carried into execution, had visibly increased the national debt. He was so well acquainted with the state of all public debts, that it could be only he who published a remarkable pamphlet at this time on that subject ; which Sir Robert Walpole took notice of, in order to falsify its calculations ; and some sharp altercation passed between them on it.

persons,

persons, a partizan of the ministry made a motion, that it appeared the sum of money already issued and applied for discharging the national debt, including a sum which would be issued at Lady-Day, amounted to 6,648,762l. The leaders of the opposition, inveighed against the fallacy and deceit of this motion; on the fraudulent artifices in making out the accounts; on the profuse management of the public money; and, notwithstanding the establishment of the sinking fund, the national debt was increasing in a time of profound tranquility; with all the heavy and enormous taxes on the people; grievances which must be perpetuated to latest posterity. However, the motion was carried in favour of the ministry, and it was agreed to lay before the king, an account of the national debt, with the sums discharged and incurred since the year 1716, and a state of the sinking fund, and of the public credit. It is worth observing, that in the particular account of these debts, the sum of 300,000l. relating to a duty on wrought plate, was at first omitted; but being discovered, it occasioned a warm debate, and some severe reflections on those who were paid to superintend the public accounts; but it was afterwards added. The king received this account of the national debt with great satisfaction, and said, the means which had been established for gradually discharging it, were so certain, that nothing but some unforeseen event, could prevent their proving effectual. The whole design of this motion and representation, was no more than a contrivance of the minister's, to keep up his credit with the people, by endeavouring to make them believe the national debt was not likely to be attended with those consequences which the opposition laid down as infallible, and to shew that the methods taken to reduce it were certain. On the 4th day of May following, a message was sent into the house by the king, requesting a vote of credit to fulfil certain en-

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gagements,

gagements, entered into with the consent of the late parliament, for securing the trade and navigation of his kingdoms, and preserving the peace of Europe ; it occasioned a debate, but the majority resolved to grant it,

The lords were employed this session, in making debates on the national debt ; in perusing copies of treaties and alliances, submitted to their inspection by the king : they made an attempt to amend the statute of limitations, but it miscarried ; they passed the mutiny bill ; an act obliging all vessels, coming from infected places, to perform quarantine ; and the bills relating to the supplies ; all which received the royal assent ; and the king closed the session on the 28th day of May, with thanking the commons for the effectual supplies they had granted, and for having empowered him to borrow 500,000*l.* to discharge the wages due to the seamen of the royal navy.

Though the aristocratical part of the government was deemed some time ago to have extended its constitutional bounds, yet towards the close of this session, we find it strengthened with the additional names of lord Monson, late Sir John Monson, lord Malton, late Sir Thomas Wentworth, lord Hobart, late Sir John Hobart, and lord Lovel, late Sir Thomas Coke.

In the late reign some differences had broke out between the courts of Hanover and Vienna, and London and Madrid, which were not yet terminated, though a congress had been opened some time ago at Soissons. Hostilities had ceased in Europe before the death of George I. but in America the Spainards continued to commit depredations, with impunity, on the subjects of Great-Britain, and the fleet of this nation lay rotting there, in a state of inactivity ; while the sailors were perishing in the utmost misery, without daring to do justice for their injured country.

Spain

Spain renewed a good understanding with France, and added strength to her interest, by concluding a double marriage with the royal family of Portugal. During the time of holding a congress at Soissons, the duke of Parma, gave the pretender an invitation to reside in his dominions, promising to receive him with the marks of honour and respect due to the king of Great-Britain; on which Signior Como, the duke's resident at London, was ordered to depart the kingdom in two days. In short, the peace of Europe seemed to hang in the same suspense as at the conclusion of the late king's reign *.

On the 21st of January, 1729, the parliament met, and the king opened the session with acquainting them, the congress had not been so successful as he expected;

* On the 3d day of August, this year, died the duke of Brunswic Lunenburg, bishop of Osnabrug, duke of York and Albany, and earl of Ulster, brother to George the first. He was succeeded in his bishopric, by the elector of Cologne, according to the treaty of Munster, enacting, that the bishopric of Osnabrug, shall be alternately possessed by the elector of Cologne, a papist, and a prince of the house of Brunswic, a protestant.

On the 4th day of December, the king's eldest son, prince Frederick, arrived in England from Hanover, where he had hitherto resided, it having been partly doubted whether the heir apparent to the crown should not reside in Great-Britain. On his arrival he was introduced into the privy-council, and created prince of Wales.

Lord Cateret, who had been appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, was received in that kingdom with marks of general esteem. The business of the Irish parliament was carried on with great unanimity and regularity; they established funds for the discharge of their national debt; they repaired the highways and bridges; removed nuisances; encouraged the finding and working of mines and minerals; enquired into the state of the hempen and flax manufactures, and gave considerable sums for the encouragement of both; they promoted tillage, and inspected the abuses committed by bakers, millers, and farmers. In short, they did every thing a wise people could suggest, towards laying useful foundations and improvements.

which

which he afterwards insinuated was principally owing to the hopes the courts of Vienna and Madrid had entertained of creating discontents and divisions among his subjects; and he requested such supplies as should enable him to act vigorously, in concert with his allies, in case he could not establish an advantageous peace. The striking insinuation contained in this speech, was universally attributed to the minister who penned it with a view of intimidating the members in the opposition: he with his numerous adherents, pushed the hint as far as it would go, and they obtained such an address to the throne, as was perfectly agreeable to themselves. The estimates being laid before the house, they unanimously voted 15,000 seamen for the service of the ensuing year; but the motion for continuing the army of 23,000 men, granted the preceding year, occasioned a strong debate; Mr. William Pulteney, Mr. Shippen, and Sir Joseph Jekyl, master of the rolls, proved from history and experience, the danger into which a standing army brought the constitution; and how often, and even at this time, it threatened the destruction of the liberties of the people. They enlarged on the extraordinary and unnecessary sums paid to the landgrave of Hesse, and the duke of Brunswic Wolfenbuttle, and smartly observed, that as these princes, usually maintained a certain number of troops, it was but reasonable Great-Britain should only pay for those raised extraordinary on her account. The best of arguments at this time had no weight, the court party carried their point by a majority of 256 against 91, and they granted 50,000*l.* to be paid to the king of Sweden. These supplies were raised by continuing the land-tax, the duties on cyder, perry, and malt; by an additional duty on unmalted corn, used in distilling; and by the sale of annuities to the Bank, not exceeding 50,000*l.* *per annum.* The timidity of the ministry, in not revenging the unwarrantable ravages

ravages daily committed on the British subjects in America, by the Spaniards, raised loud clamours all over the nation. The people could not hear without indignation, of their friends being killed or carried into captivity, and their property seized, without any colour of equitable reason ; and not be permitted to return hostilities on so presuming and haughty an adversary ; they were on fire to repel their injuries : the merchants of Bristol and Liverpool, first distinguished themselves, in presenting petitions to the house of commons, complaining of their wrongs, of the frequent depredations of the Spaniards on their trade in the West-Indies. These being read, the lords of the admiralty were ordered to lay before the house, the other memorials of the same kind which they had received ; the house addressed the king for admiral Hosier's instructions, and those of the commander in chief who succeeded him, in order to lay them before the congress at Soissons. Other merchants presented petitions, complaining of the same grievances, which the house having deliberated upon, and heard evidence, addressed the king, requesting he would use his endeavours to prevent these depredations for the future ; that he would procure satisfaction for his subjects, and secure them the free exercise of commerce and navigation, to and from his colonies in America. He in his answer, assured them he would do all that lay in his power to comply with their desires and expectations. They also addressed him for a particular account how 60,000l. had been expended, which had been raised for the service of the last year, and was only mentioned in the public account, without the particulars ; but they received for answer, *that no particular account of the same could be given, without a manifest prejudice to the public.* A bill was prepared, and passed the House without opposition, to prevent bribery and corruption in elections for members of parliament.

ment. Their attention was entirely taken up with debates on the Spanish depredations, in which the most sensible and honest members seemed to be of opinion, that these continued insults, were in a great measure owing to the negligence, timidity, and incapacity of the ministry; they enquired further into the particulars of these grievances; they passed some resolutions, in which they accused the Spaniards of having violated the treaties subsisting between the two crowns; of having treated inhumanly the masters and crews of several British trading vessels in the West-Indies; they justified admiral Hosier's instructions, to make reprisals of the Spanish flota and galleons, till satisfaction should be obtained for the injured British subjects; on which account they again addressed the king, and he promised to grant their request. An account of the civil-list revenues was laid before the house, agreeable to their request; when the courtiers affirmed, they fell short of the sum of 800,000*l.* granted the King, and proposed to grant an additional sum of 115,000*l.* by a bill for settling the price of imported corn, to discharge deficiencies and arrears of the civil-list; this was warmly and sensibly opposed by Mr. Pulteney, and other members; but the ministers carried their point without suffering the particulars, or the truth, to be enquired into. It was lucky for the ministry, that Mr. Oglethorpe, made a motion for inspecting the public gaols, and for preventing the cruelties used by gaolers on their prisoners, as it diverted the attention of the parliament, at a time when the nation was exasperated against the ministry; therefore, they very politically encouraged a strict enquiry into this abuse. A committee was appointed for this purpose, of which Mr. Oglethorpe, was chosen chairman; they went in a body to visit Fleet-Prison, where they found Sir William Rich, baronet, loaded with irons, for some slight offence, which he had given to Cambridge,
bridge,

bridge the warden; a detestable ruffian, who had committed the most inhuman barbarities, frauds, and extortions, his villainous imagination could contrive. The farther they enquired into this shocking scene of cruelty, they found it every way extending with horror and infamy; for which Bambridge and Higgins, the late warden, who had acted in the same oppressive manner, with four of their accomplices, were committed to Newgate, and prosecuted by the attorney-general; and a bill was brought in for the better regulating this prison.

The lords deliberated on the positive demands made by the Spaniards, of the restitution of Gibraltar and Minorca ; the former founded on a conditional promise of his late majesty's, in a letter to the king of Spain, wherein it was specified, " That he " [George I.] would make use of the first favourable " opportunity to regulate the article of its restitution, " with the consent of his parliament." A motion was made, for the better securing the commerce of the kingdom ; that care should be taken at the conclusion of the next treaty with Spain, that she renounced, in express terms, all her claims to Gibraltar and Minorca ; but this equitable motion was over-ruled and altered into a complimentary one to the king, thus ; that the house entirely relied on him, that he would, for the securing the commerce of the kingdom, take care in his treaty with Spain, to secure his right to Gibraltar and Minorca. They examined several papers relative to the depredations of the Spaniards ; during which they could not help uttering many severe expressions on the conduct of the ministry. Several of the lords were of opinion that Hosier's expedition was an unreasonable burden on the nation. They were surprized at the clause in the corn bill, for granting an additional sum to the king ; they affirmed, that instead of a deficiency in the civil-list revenues, there was a considerable surplus. They

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remarked

remarked that this was a new burden on the people, at a time when they were oppressed with heavy taxes, their foreign trade diminished, their manufactures decayed, and their poor multiplied, and the public debts increased; that if the revenues of the civil-list did not amount to the annual sum of 800,000*l.* the deficiency must be made good by the public; but if they should exceed that sum, there were no means mentioned how the overplus should be applied. In spite of argument, the courtiers triumphed here, as in the lower house; they defied national reproach, and held in contempt public spirit, sentiment, and shame; though fourteen of the lords entered into a very strong and plausible protest against it. Every reader who has any knowledge of the iniquity of these times, may easily form an idea how the money had been expended, which was to be supplied by this additional grant; for it was well known by what means the minister acquired his interest in parliament, and how he preserved it. On the 14th day of May, the public and private bills received the royal assent, in which there was one for the relief of insolvent debtors, and an act enabling the queen to be regent of the kingdom, without taking the oaths, while the king went to Hanover, of which he declared his intention in his speech; and set out in three days after. The kingdom at this time enjoyed uninterrupted tranquility, and commerce began to increase, notwithstanding the discouragement and restrictions of those pretended friends to their country, who were every day sapping its constitution and interest *.

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* The court writings at this time on the Spanish depredations, &c. were of a piece with the courtiers; they were patched up without connexion, knowledge, or accuracy; and frequently afforded

In the month of November, the differences between Great Britain and Spain were amicably settled by a treaty concluded at Seville. The congress at Soissons having proved abortive, conferences were held at Seville, by the plenipotentiaries of England, France, and Spain, without the concurrence of the emperor. This famous treaty implied, that all the former treaties should subsist as they were; that the commerce in Europe and the Indies, should be restored to its former footing; and that the Spaniards should make restitution of their unlawful seizures and depredations, which were to be proved so, at their court, by British commissaries. This last stipulation at once reflected dishonour upon the nation, and was a hardship on the British subjects; for few merchants cared to be at the trouble and expence of a journey to the court of Spain, to prove their losses, especially when they had reason to apprehend their demands would be counter-balanced by the Spaniards. The other extra-

afforded an excellent handle for the opposition to turn the ministers into ridicule.

The stipulation on which the Spaniards insisted relative to the dispute in America, was, that the English should be excluded from all right of cutting logwood in Campeachey, or of trade to that bay. The Spaniards had made this demand in the year 1717, when George I. referred it to the board of trade; who were of opinion the English had a right to cut logwood there; they founded their judgment on the English being the first settlers, and by the treaty made in 1670, when their right was confirmed, and also by that of Utrecht made in 1713.

Victor Amadæus king of Sardinia, this year resigned his crown in favour of his son Charles Emanuel, prince of Piedmont. Peter II. czar of Muscovy, and grand-son of Peter I. died in the fifteenth year of his age at Muscow, and was succeeded on the Russian throne by the princess Anne Ivanouna, second daughter of John Alexowitz, elder brother of Peter I. and widow of Frederic William, duke of Courland. This year was also rendered remarkable by the death of pope Benedict XIII. The cardinal Laurence Corsini, was placed in the papal chair, where he assumed the name of Clement XII.

ordinary articles of this famous treaty, imported, that the English should assist in introducing 6000 Spanish troops, as garrisons into the towns of Parma and Tuscany, without any specification of methods, in order to secure those duchies to the immediate succession of the infant don Carlos, son to the king of Spain, and that they should guaranty these states to him for ever. At best, these latter articles were an open breach of the quadruple alliance made in 1719; wherein it was stipulated, that neutral, and not Spanish troops, should be introduced, into the towns of Parma and Tuscany, nor were they to continue there till don Carlos, and his successors, should be secure from all events. England's agreeing to these articles, so foreign to her interests, can only be imputed to the weakness of her ministers; for there was the greatest probability that her subscribing to them, would involve her in endless quarrels and disputes, about a country with which she had no concern.

This year lord Carteret, returned from Ireland, and was succeeded in the lieutenancy of that kingdom by the duke of Dorset. In England, Charles lord Townshend resigned the seals, which were given to the earl of Harrington, late colonel Stanhope; by this alteration Sir Robert Walpole, reigned without a rival. James earl of Waldegrave, was appointed ambassador to the court of France, which was filled with joy on the birth of a dauphin.

On the 13th day of January 1730, the king opened the session of parliament, with a speech enumerating the contents of the treaty of Seville, wherein it must be owned that his observations differed from the tenor of it; particularly, where he said it was founded on former treaties, and tended to fulfil the quadruple alliance. He said he had given orders for reducing both the army and the fleet, and recommended to their consideration the state of public credit. When the lords took the treaty of Seville into consideration, they

they did not let it pass without severe admidversion. The sensible peers, who distinguished themselves in the interest of their country, saw that throughout the whole treaty, there was an artful omission of securing to Great-Britain, her right to Gibraltar and Minorca. They expatiated on some parts of it being a manifest violation of the quadruple alliance; that it might detach the emperor from the interest of England, and that the stipulations for repairing the losses of the British merchants, were insufficient and precarious, and twenty-four peers entered into a protest against it. They were able and plausible speakers, and their opinions were industriously circulated throughout the united kingdoms; in every part of which, the people had shewed a dislike to the proceedings of the minister, and now it was heightened to a detestation. When the pension bill was brought into the house of lords, “ For disabling all persons
“ from being members of the lower house, who had
“ any pension during pleasure, or for any number
“ of years, or any offices, held in trust for them,
“ under the crown,” it occasioned a violent debate, and was at length thrown out by the courtiers; but this triumph was clogged with a protest of twenty-six peers, which rendered the ministry still more unpopular. Such also was the case of the mutiny-bill; but never did the ministry appear more absurd than in their defence of keeping the Hessian troops, in the pay of Great-Britain; it was affirmed against them, that if their engagements with Spain, France, and Holland, were good for any thing, what could Great-Britain have to fear, that these troops should continue in her pay; they answered that the emperor shewed a design of disturbing the peace of Europe. This assertion was true, but then such a design was in consequence of their concluding the treaty of Seville, without his knowledge, though he was nearly concerned, and of agreeing to such stipulations

lations as were contrary to the tenor of the quadruple alliance which he had signed. But the ministry carried their point, which made such an impression on the body of the people, that some of them were almost induced to believe the keeping in this time of peace, so large a number of foreign mercenaries, were intended in support of wicked designs on their constitution. When the charge of the land forces fell under the consideration of the commons, some of the most sensible members strongly inveighed against this Germanizing the kingdom, to tamely submit to a military government. They again and again repeated their animadversions, on the treaty of Seville, which the ministry at first said was an absolute peace, and could not involve Great-Britain in any quarrels or disputes. Where then is the necessity, said Mr. Shippen, of demanding all these troops (almost 18,000, besides foreigners) in a time of public peace? they are not necessary to make Spain adhere to her own treaty? they cannot force the emperor to accede to it? they are not necessary for the safety of the king. “ Force and
“ violence are the resort of usurpers and tyrants
“ only, because they are, with good reason, distrustful
“ of the people whom they oppress; and because
“ they have no other security for the continuance of
“ their unlawful and unnatural dominion, than what
“ depends entirely on the strength of their armies.” The motion for granting the land forces was made by Mr. Henry Pelham, secretary; and being supported by the whole weight of the ministry, assembled for that purpose, was forced through the house on the shoulders of a considerable majority. Another bill was brought in by the courtiers, for prohibiting all his majesty’s subjects from lending sums of money to foreign princes or states, without his licence. Sir Robert Walpole, pretended it was to prevent the emperor from borrowing a large sum
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in England. Mr. Daniel Pulteney, Mr. Barnard, and other gentlemen, acquainted with commerce, exposed the pernicious effects of this bill; they argued on its being a restraint on the English trade; that it would render Holland the market of Europe; that the king of Portugal frequently borrowed money of the English merchants, residing in his dominions; that it totally disabled the nation from assisting its best allies, but not did prevent the stock-jobbers from trading in foreign funds, which ought to be prohibited, for the English had been great sufferers by that means; that while the licensing remained in the power of the crown, the licenses would pass through the hands of the minister, who by this new trade might gain from twenty to forty thousand pounds a year; that it would render the exchequer a court of inquisition, and that it was a violation of our fundamental laws and liberties. But reason, remonstrance, and evidence had no weight, with persons who were proof against conviction; the bill was forced through the house, and afterwards enacted into law. They continued the subsidies to the landgrave of Hesse, and the duke of Brunswic Wolfenbuttle, in spite of all that could be urged against this unnecessary load of expence. To the honour of this session it must be owned, that one million of the surplus, arising from the sinking fund, was ordered towards discharging the national debt. The duties on salt were extinguished, and the traders and planters of Carolina, were encouraged to export rice. An attempt was made to lay open the East-India trade, the charter of this company being very near expiring, by Sir John Barnard, and other eminent merchants, but it failed; and the charter of the company was prolonged to the year 1766. On the 15th of May, the king closed the session by a speech, importing, that he was glad they had approved of what fell under their consideration, notwithstanding all the clamours of those incendiaries, who,

who, by scandalous libels endeavoured to alienate the affections of his people.

The emperor repented the insult offered him by the treaty of Seville, respecting the garrisons of Tuscany and Parma, by prohibiting the British subjects from trading in his dominions; and he began to make preparations for war. The power of the minister was so great, that his friends were daily succeeding to the greatest places; such unlimited favours bestowed on one man, disgusted many of the whigs, who had been old servants to the crown, and warm adherents to the protestant succession; many of them resigned, while every circumstance served to make the minister more odious to the people *.

The parliament met on the 21st of January 1731. The bill against pensioners sitting in the house of commons, passed that house, but was rejected by the lords. The subsidies to the landgrave of Hesse, and the duke of Wolfenbuttle were continued. The delays of justice having been very great, occasioned by the law proceedings being in Latin, they were

* A licentious and wicked degeneracy prevailed all over the kingdom at this time; it was infested with robbers, thieves, and assassins in every part; even the very streets of the capital were dangerous to walk in after day-light. A wantonness of barbarity, a desperate and savage spirit of cruelty, seemed to influence these miscreants in committing their horrid crimes. Incendiary letters at this time took their rise, and every species of villainy was practised that their evil imaginations could suggest. This peculiar depravity must no doubt have taken its rise from the visible conduct of those that preyed upon the —, and it was suffered to proceed in defiance of the laws, from the want of police in the interior government.

Seven Indian chiefs of the Cherokee nation, in North America, were this year introduced to the king, at whose feet they laid their crown and regalia, and acknowledged themselves his subjects; they were amazed at the magnificence of his court, they signed several articles of friendship and commerce, and were dismissed loaded with presents.

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ordered to be for the future in English. The depredations and cruelties of the Spaniards still continuing, several petitions were presented to the house, by many injured subjects; and it appeared upon examination, that their complaints were well founded. Upon which the house addressed the king, to procure satisfaction for his subjects. Dr. Sherlock, bishop of Bangor, made a remarkable speech in the house of lords, against the pension bill, which he considered as a scheme to enlarge the power of the commons, and to break the balance so essential between the powers of the two houses, and would sooner or later prove the ruin of the constitution. This absurd, ridiculous, and court-like speech, drew on him the indignation of many worthy men *.

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* The differences between the emperor and the king of Great-Britain and Spain, were amicably adjusted by a treaty signed at Vienna on the 22d of July, and Sir Charles Wager, was ordered to sail from England with a squadron to convey the infant don Carlos to his dominions; which was accordingly done, and don Carlos settled in Italy. By this treaty the Ostend company, who had given umbrage to some of the maritime powers, were totally abolished. In August, a treaty of union, and defensive alliance between the electorates of Hanover and Saxony, was signed at Dresden.

The spirit of political writing raged with uncommon fury at this time; the pamphlets of the two parties were a true characteristic of each. The hackneyed writers of the ministry were stupid, scurrilous, needy, ignorant, and illiterate; while those of the opposition, managed by lord Bolingbroke, Mr. William Pulteney, and other sensible and learned men, opened such an inexhaustible fund of political knowledge, as was the astonishment of mankind. Their wit and satire flowed with elegance and ease; they were nervous, poignant, decent, and bold: they conducted a famous paper which rose at this time, called the Craftsman, which was attacked with great acrimony by the partizans of the minister, but the arrows they shot against it, had no more effect than if they had been shot against one of the pyramids of Egypt. Lord Hervey, son to the earl of Bristol, was said to have wrote a pamphlet entitled, Sedition and Defamation displayed; and

Mr.

The session of parliament was opened by the king on the 13th of January. All the arguments for and against a standing army were revived; and declamation abounded on the side of the ministry. Severe animadversions on foreign connexions and inconsistent treaties, the danger of the constitution from a standing army, besides the expence of maintaining it, flowed from the opposition. The salt duties which had been taken off in the year 1730, were this session laid on again. This imposition produced great debates; it was a time of public tranquillity, and the king had promised to take off some of those taxes which affected the poor; but this renewing them, said the members in the opposition, shewed a determination to grind the faces of the poor, in order to ease a few rich men. They expatiated on the great price of all provisions, on the hardships of the tradesmen, and the murmurs of the people, which was the next to open sedition; but it was like talking in a desert. An enquiry into the state of the charitable corporation was made by the house of commons. The intention of this company, which had been instituted in the year 1707, was to lend money at legal interest on goods; their capital was at first limited to 30,000*l.* but by licences from the crown, it was extended to 600,000*l.* though their charter was never confirmed by parliament. Great embezzlements it appeared had been made by the cashier, George Robinson, Esq; member for Marlow,

Mr. William Pulteney, to have wrote an answer under the title of A proper Reply. Some disputes passed between these gentlemen in the house, when they did not absolutely deny these pieces; but they were so warm, that their dispute became personal, upon which lord Hervey challenged Mr. Pulteney to meet him in the Green-Park, which was accepted; but the minister's subaltern received two slight wounds, and very narrowly escaped being run through the body, when they were parted by their seconds.

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and the warehouse-keeper John Thompson, and it was suspected, in concert with many persons of opulence and rank ; the whole was one of the most black and iniquitous scenes that ever was discovered, and reflected indelible infamy on many persons. Sir Robert Sutton and Sir Archibald Grant, were expelled the house, for being concerned in these fraudulent practices, as was also George Robinson, Esq ; A letter was brought to the house from Belloni, the pretender's banker at Rome, acquainting them that Thompson was secured in that city, and all his papers taken from him, which should be transmitted to England upon certain stipulations in favour of the prisoner. This letter was immediately looked upon as an artifice of the pretender's to insinuate a favourable opinion of himself, into the minds of the people ; by pretending that what he had done was for the sake of justice, and the love he had for them ; therefore it was considered as an insolent libel, and ordered to be burned by the hangman at the Royal Exchange. Another scene of iniquitous fraud was detected by lord Gage, in the sale of the forfeited estate belonging to the late earl of Derwentwater, for which Dennis Bond, Esq ; and serjeant Birch, commissioners of the sale, were expelled the house. Five members were expelled the house this session for the most infamous acts of villainy ; a certain sign of national degeneracy and disgrace. All the supplies were granted after strong debates, and the sum of 22,694l. was granted for an agio or difference of the subsidies payable to Denmark, pursuant to the treaty made with that monarch by George I. after a violent dispute. On the first of June the session was closed, and a few days after the king set out for Hanover, and left the queen regent *.

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* The leaders of the parties were frequently so warm in their political disputes, that they descended to the most invective and

The power of ministerial influence was now so great, that nothing could check it, but the danger of internal commotion; this the government were on the point of experiencing, when it was suspected that a general excise was intended to be laid. The whole nation was in a ferment; they dreaded the dangers to which their liberties would be exposed, from the scandalous fleecings of a rapacious minister. They waited with the greatest impatience for the next session of parliament, which they believed was to determine whether they were to be free men or slaves. They had indeed other reasons for complaint; such as the French were actually fortifying Dunkirk, contrary to treaty; the merchants had got no redress for the depredations of the Spaniards; the commerce of the kingdom was declining; the only trade which flourished was the traffic in Change-Alley.

On the 16th of January 1733, the parliament met, and the session was opened. The reduction of the army was so warmly insisted upon, that the ministry

and injurious personalities. In a debate on the 12th of February, between Mr. Pulteney and Mr. Pelham, a challenge ensued, and Mr. Pulteney immediately went out of the house; but before Mr. Pelham went out, the speaker was informed of it, upon which the serjeant at arms was ordered to recall Mr. Pulteney, and the house obliged them to drop their design.

Mr. Pulteney bore a considerable share in all the debates against the minister, for whom he was in reality an over-match; his arguments were in general, stated with accuracy and precision; his points were solid and conclusive; his language was nervous, free, and elegant; and all these were admirably supported by his unfathomable wisdom and dauntless intrepidity. These very eminent qualities occasioned his disgrace at court this year. The king one day called for the council book, and struck with his own hand off the list of privy-counsellors, the name of William Pulteney, Esq; and he further ordered him to be put out of all commissions of the peace, and every office to which he [the king] had a right to extend his authority. This incident gained Mr. Pulteney great honour, though the contrary was doubtless intended him; but the maxim was, those whom the court despised, the people idolized.

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were obliged to enforce this unconstitutional burden, with having recourse to the old phantom of the pretender. The commissioners appointed by the treaty of Seville, to settle the Spanish depredations, had done nothing, which occasioned strong debates. An act was passed for the better security and encouraging the trade of the British sugar colonies in America. Sir Robert Walpole, carried his point of borrowing from the sinking fund 500,000*l.* after a violent dispute, in which the iniquity of pillaging a sacred deposit, solemnly appropriated to the discharge of the national debt, was displayed by Mr. Pulteney and others. The ministry feared nothing; secure of their numbers, their success was invincible. Great preparations were made for supporting and opposing the excise scheme, which Sir Robert Walpole said he would bring into the house on the 14th of March, when all the members throughout the kingdom were ordered to attend. When the important day arrived, all the avenues leading to the house, were filled with people, waiting to hear the issue of this memorable event. The members on both sides were ready, and waited with impatience for the contest. At last Sir Robert Walpole broached his design. He previously took notice of the arts which had been used to prejudice his scheme before it was known; on the clamours which he said had taken rise, among smugglers and fraudulent dealers; that the scheme he was going to propose would remove all those frauds, and add 2 or 300,000*l.* a year to the revenue; he declared he had no intention to promote a general excise: then he proposed to join the laws of excise, and those of the customs together, that the further subsidy of three farthings per pound, charged upon imported tobacco, should still be levied at the Custom-House, and payable to his majesty's civil-list as before; that then tobacco should be lodged in warehouses appointed for that purpose, by the commissioners

missioners of the excise; that the keepers of the warehouses, who were to be appointed by the commissioners, should have one lock and key, and the importer another, until he found vent for it either at home or abroad; that if it was exported it should first be weighed at the Custom-House, and discharged of the three farthings per pound; if it was for home consumption, it should be delivered in the presence of the warehouse keeper to the purchaser, upon his paying the inland duty of 4d. per pound; that all penalties and forfeitures, so far as they belonged to the crown, should be applied to the use of the public; and appeals as in all other cases of excise, should be determined by two or three judges nominated by the king. This was the substance of the famous excise scheme; in favour of which Sir Robert Walpole moved, that the duties and subsidies on tobacco should cease after the 24th of June. He was sharply answered by alderman Perry, one of the members for the city of London, who accused him with having misrepresented the frauds, and making false calculations; that his scheme would ruin the factors, and not prevent those frauds he complained of; that the funds, which did not exceed 40,000*l. per annum*, might be abolished by the laws in being; that the scheme could not augment the revenue, but would be destructive to trade, and dangerous to the liberty of the subject, and as tending to promote a general excise. Other sensible members affirmed this scheme, should it be carried into execution, would produce an additional swarm of excise officers and warehouse-keepers, who would be dependents on the crown, and farther influence the freedom of elections: that the traders would become slaves to the excisemen and warehouse-keepers, as they would be debarred from all access to their commodities, except at certain hours, when attended by those officers; that the merchant, for every quantity of tobacco he could sell, would be

be obliged to get a permit from the office, which he could not do without trouble, expence, and delay ; and should this scheme be carried into law, it would in all probability be used as a precedent for introducing excise-laws into all branches of the revenue ; in which case the liberty of Great-Britain would be no more. Sir William Wyndham drew a parallel between Sir Robert Walpole and those famous rapacious ministers, Epsum and Durley, who, knowing their master was insatiable in his desire for money, concluded, that no scheme would be more agreeable to him than that which would fill his coffers, and drain the purses of his subjects ; but said he, they lost their heads by it as soon as his successor came to the throne. The lobby, the court of requests, Westminster-hall, and every part near the house, continued still to be crowded by a vast concourse of people. Sir Robert Walpole took notice of the house being beset by multitudes, which, said he, whatever gentlemen may call them, such as a modest multitude or humble suppliants, he knew whom the law called sturdy beggars, and they who brought the people thither, could not be certain but they might behave in the same manner. This speech threw the house in a flame. Sir John Barnard immediately resented this insinuation ; he said, that merchants of character had a right to come to the lobby and court of requests, in order to solicit their friends and acquaintance against any scheme that was prejudicial to their commerce : when he came into the house, he saw none but such as deserved the name of sturdy beggars as little as the minister himself. After a desperate dispute the motion was carried by a majority of sixty-one voices ; and a bill was produced ; against which petitions were presented by the lord-mayor, aldermen, and common-council of London ; and the towns of Nottingham and Coventry. The minister began to fear the resentment of an injured and enraged people, should he incur
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their displeasure too far; he had been insulted in coming to the house, and his life was in imminent danger, had it not been for Mr. Cunningham, a Scotch member, who rescued him by drawing his sword; for which seasonable assistance the king made him governor of Jamaica. He trembled for his own safety, and this made him drop his design, which it is certain he might have carried into execution, had he no other opposition to encounter but that within doors. The second reading of the bill was put off till the 12th of June. This memorable miscarriage was celebrated with every kind of public demonstration of joy in London and Westminster; the monument was illuminated; and in one of the bonfires, the minister was solemnly burned in effigy, with all the marks of indignation and abhorrence.

An attempt was made in the house of lords, to make an enquiry into the affairs of the South-Sea Company, who were suspected to have been guilty of fraudulent practices. The ministry endeavoured to stifle this enquiry, and at length effected their design; but it was observed, that of the 57 peers who voted on that side the question, 46 were such as enjoyed preferment in the church, commissioners in the army, or civil employments under the government. They were also successful in a bill for misapplying part of the produce of the sinking fund, after a violent contest. On the 11th of June, the day before the excise bill was to be read, the king put an end to the session with a speech, in one part of which he was very severe on those whom, he said, fomented divisions.

This year the prince of Orange espoused the princess Anne, the king's eldest daughter, with whom the parliament gave a portion of 80,000*l*. A great number of protestants fled from Germany into England, and were transported to Georgia, in order
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to settle in that colony, for which purpose the parliament had granted 10,000*l*. General Oglethorpe was appointed governor of it, and he took infinite pains to plant it *.

On the 17th of January 1734, the king opened the session of parliament with a speech, in which he mentioned the critical situation of affairs in Europe †. A motion was made, that the letters and instructions sent to the British ministers at Paris and Madrid, relating to the treaty of Seville, be laid before the house, but it was over-ruled after a hard struggle; 1800 men were added to the number of land-forces after a violent debate. The members in the opposition were by this time so irritated against the ministry, that they resolved to

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* The Dutch were greatly alarmed by an incredible number of sea-worms which eat into the piles and timber-work that supported their dykes; they fasted and prayed with uncommon zeal in terror of this calamity, which they knew not how to remove in any other manner; at length they were delivered by a hard frost which destroyed their enemies.

Mr. Diedem, plenipotentiary from the elector of Hanover, at Vienna, received in the name of his master, from the hands of the emperor, the investiture of Bremen and Verden.

† The king of Poland dying on the 1st. of February, involved Europe in a fresh scene of troubles. Two parties were formed on this occasion, the one for Augustus the elector of Saxony, son to the late king, in whose interest were the Imperialists and Russians; and the other for Stanislaus, father-in-law to the French king, by whose interposition he was proclaimed. The French made war against the Imperialists, and were successful on the Rhine, and in Italy; and their fleet appeared in the Baltic. The British ministry were utterly averse to war, while the Spaniards were determined upon nothing else: their minister delivered a memorial in London, signifying that the territories of Don Carlos, had been insulted by the imperialists, and it was expected the king of Great Britain would, as guarantee to those territories, procure satisfaction.

The earl of Chesterfield, had by this time resigned his staff of lord-steward of the household, and renounced all connection with the ministry. The duke of Bolton, and lord Cobham, had been deprived of the command of their regiments, because they refused to concur with every project of the administration.

pose all court proceedings implicitly, in which their sole aim was to remove from the confidence of the sovereign, a minister whose conduct they deemed prejudicial to the interest and liberties of their country. The most memorable debate was on an attempt to repeal the septennial act: the best speakers on both sides exerted themselves on this occasion, and the best constitutional arguments were offered by the country-party *, but the courtiers out did them, by

* Though it is not our intention to recite at large the speeches of the members, yet we are certain the candid reader will forgive our transcribing the latter part of Sir William Wyndham's excellent speech on this subject, as it throws no small degree of light on our recapitulation of the events of these times. " Let us, said he, suppose a man abandoned to all notions of virtue and honour, of no great family, and but a mean fortune, raised to be chief minister of state, by the concurrence of many whimsical events; afraid, or unwilling to trust any but creatures of his own making, lost to all sense of shame and reputation, ignorant of his country's true interest, pursuing no aim but that of aggrandizing himself and his favourites; in foreign affairs, trusting none but those who, from the nature of their education, cannot possibly be qualified for the service of their country, or give weight and credit to their negotiations. Let us suppose the true interest of the nation, by such means, neglected or misunderstood, her honour tarnished, her importance lost, her trade insulted, her merchants plundered, and her sailors murdered; and all these circumstances overlooked, lest his administration should be endangered. Suppose him next possessed of immense wealth, the plunderer of the nation, with a parliament chiefly composed of members whose seats are purchased, and whose votes are bought at the expence of the public treasure. In such a parliament, suppose all attempts made to inquire into his conduct, or to relieve the nation from the distress which has been intailed upon it by his administration: suppose him screened by a corrupt majority of his creatures, whom he retains in daily pay, or engages in his particular interest, by distributing among them those posts and places which ought never to be bestowed upon any but for the good of the public. Let him plume himself upon his scandalous victory, because he has obtained a parliament, like a picked jury, ready to acquit him at all adventures. Let us suppose him domineering with insolence over all the men of ancient families, over all the men of sense, figure, or fortune, in the nation: as he has

by mere dint of number, and baffled the design. The same fate attended a bill for securing the freedom of parliaments by limiting the number of officers in the house of commons, an evil that loudly called for redress. A Bill to prevent the infamous practices of stock-jobbing for three years passed through both houses. It had been fallaciously carried on under colour of wagers, and was apprehended to be more pernicious in its consequences than gaming. 5000*l. per annum*, was granted to the princess of Orange during her life; and on the 22d. of April the session was closed, and the parliament dissolved*.

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has no virtue of his own, ridiculing it in others, and endeavouring to destroy or corrupt it in all. With such a minister, and such a parliament, let us suppose a case which I hope will never happen: a prince upon the throne uninformed, ignorant, and unacquainted with the inclinations and true interest of his people, weak, capricious, transported with unbounded ambition, and possessed with insatiable avarice. I hope such a case will never occur; but, as it possibly may, could any greater curse happen to a nation, than such a prince on the throne, advised, and solely governed by such a minister, and that minister supported by such a parliament. The nature of mankind cannot be altered by human laws; the existence of such a prince, or such a minister, we cannot prevent by act of parliament; but the existence of such a parliament I think we may prevent; as it is much more likely to exist, and may do more mischief, while the septennial law remains in force, than if it were repealed: therefore I am heartily for its being repealed."

* The Russian and Saxon army besieged Danzig, in hopes of securing Stanislaus, who had fled thither; but the place was covered by the French fleet, and defended by a French and Polish garrison, who made an obstinate defence; at length it surrendered, but Stanislaus escaped in disguise; Augustus, by this time had been proclaimed king of Poland. On the Rhine, the French bore down all opposition; their army was commanded by the duke of Berwick, who was killed before Philipsburgh, while the Imperial army, commanded by prince Eugene, durst not attempt to relieve it. In Italy, Don Carlos, at the head of the Spanish troops, was as successful as he could wish; he took possession of Naples, and was declared king. The French and Sardinians defeated the Imperialists with great slaughter at Parma, where they lost their general;

The French ministry paid so little respect to the British court at this time, that they published an edict, commanding all the British subjects in France, to quit the kingdom in fifteen days, or enlist in some of the Irish regiments, on pain of being imprisoned or sent to the galleys. The contents of this edict were executed with the utmost rigour. The prisons of Paris were in a moment crowded with British subjects, who were surprised and cut off from any communication with their friends, and must have starved, had they not been relieved by the charity of the Jansenists. The earl of Waldegrave, the British ambassador at Paris, strongly remonstrated to the French ministry, against this unheard of outrage; at length the prisoners were set at liberty by another edict, which explained away the meaning of the former. The British court at this time did not receive any extraordinary marks of respect from any of the European courts, which the opposition imputed to a spirit of pusillanimity.

The electing of a new parliament caused great struggles all over the nation, but ministerial influence gained the ascendent, and the new parliament appeared with the complexion of the old one.

On the 14th of January 1735, the session of parliament was opened, and Mr. Onslow was chosen speaker.

neral; but a new general, with a large reinforcement, coming to the Imperial army, they surprised the French quarters, seized upon their baggage, and marshal Broglie with difficulty escaped in his shirt. A few days after, these armies came to an obstinate action, near Guastalla, which lasted about six hours, and near 8000 men were slain; but the French, who gained the victory, made no advantage of it. During these transactions, England adhered to a neutrality, but continued to equip considerable armaments: Sir John Norris who was never a successful commander, was placed at the head of great part of this naval force. Towards the close of the year, a negotiation was entered into at the Hague, for the re-establishing of peace. A treaty of commerce was this year concluded with Russia.

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The leading members of both parties were the same, and the same measures were pursued as on the former system. The king told them in his speech, he had undertaken to mediate the differences between the powers at war, and had concluded a treaty with the king of Denmark; and that while Germany continued in war, Great Britain must be more or less affected with its consequences; 36,000 men were granted for the sea service, for this year, and 22,744 men for the land service. After many debates, in which the arguments of the ministry, to raise this extraordinary supply, were entirely refuted; and their weak conduct exposed in destroying the balance of power, by assisting Spain against the emperor, while France grew more formidable. When the subsidy treaty with Denmark came under consideration, by which it appeared that 56,250*l.* was to be paid to the Dane, all the leaders in the opposition exclaimed against it, as unreasonable and unnecessary. They observed that the balance of power, was the only plea that could be urged; but then the other powers, said they, are more interested in it than we; and when it is really in danger, they will engage in its defence, without being paid for it; but should Great Britain be the first to take the alarm, at every trifling rupture, and immediately offer bribes and pensions to all the princes in Europe, the whole expence of maintaining that balance would fall on ourselves. However, on putting the question, the majority voted the foreign subsidy.

The most extraordinary transaction of this session, was a debate on the election of the sixteen Scotch peers. A petition was delivered into the house of lords, by the duke of Bedford, and signed by the dukes of Hamilton, Queensberry, and Montrose; the earls of Dundonald, Marchmont, and Stair, representing that illegal practices had been used in the course of this election.

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The partisans of the ministry would fain have stifled this enquiry, but the lords in the opposition would not suffer them. After some debate the petitioners were ordered to lay their grievances before the house, which they did the next day to this effect; that the list of the sixteen Peers for Scotland, had been framed previous to the election, by persons in high trust under the crown: that this list was shewn to the peers, as a list approved by the crown, and was called the *king's list*, from which there was to be no variation, unless to make way for one or two particular Peers, on condition they should conform to measures: that peers were solicited to vote for this list, without the liberty of making any alteration: that endeavours were used to engage peers to vote for this list, by promise of pensions and offices, civil and military, for themselves and relations, as well as by offers of money: that sums were given for this purpose: that pensions, offices, and releases of debts owing to the crown, were actually granted to peers who concurred in voting for this list, and to their relations: and that on the day of election, a battalion of his majesty's troops were drawn up in the Abbey-court of Edinburgh, contrary to custom, and without any apparent cause, but that of overawing the electors. A violent dispute ensued, but at length the whole was consigned to oblivion: the complaint was voted unsatisfactory, and the petition rejected; upon which a vigorous protest of thirty three peers was entered into. The session was closed on the 15th of May, and the king immediately set out for Hanover.

The good understanding between the powers of Spain and Portugal, was broke by the Portuguese ambassador at Madrid, where his domestics rescued a criminal, from the officers of justice, upon which they were all sent to prison, by the order of the Spanish king. The king of Portugal made reprisals on
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the domestics of the Spanish ambassador at Lisbon. The two kings were incensed, and the two ambassadors withdrew abruptly. The king of Spain assembled his army on the frontiers of Portugal; the king of Portugal had recourse to the king of Great Britain, who sent a powerful squadron to Lisbon, under the command of Sir John Norris. This step was such a check upon the designs of the Spanish monarch, that it immediately produced an accommodation.

On the 15th of January 1736, the houses of parliament were opened, and the national debt was taken into consideration; when it was found to amount to 47,938,298l. It having appeared to a committee, that spirituous liquors were pernicious to the health and morals of the people, a bill was brought in for laying a duty of 20s. *per* gallon on all spirituous liquors; and that every person who retailed them should pay 50s. annually for a licence; but a clause was added in favour of punch, at the instance of the merchants. This bill having passed, the sum of 70,000l. was granted to the king, to make good the deficiencies in the civil list, which this act might occasion. The king was impowered to borrow 600,000l. for the service of the present year, to be charged on the sinking fund; but these monies were not granted without a warm and placefible dispute. A bill was brought in, praying that the quakers might be relieved from paying tythes, &c. as exposing them to grievous persecutions. After a strong debate it passed the house of commons, but was thrown out by the lords. A bill to prevent smuggling passed both houses, after a violent contest. In February the king sent two members of his privy-council, with a message to the prince of Wales, proposing a match between him and the princess of Saxegotha, which being agreeable to the prince, the marriage was celebrated on the 27th of April. Mr. George, now lord Lyttleton, Mr. Pulteney, and Mr. Pitt, pro-

pronounced elegant speeches on this occasion in favour of the prince, and his consort; and an act was passed for naturalizing the princess. On the 20th of May the session was closed, and the king set out for Hanover, having appointed the queen regent.

A new post of honour was this year erected by the king, entitled, field-marshal of the armies of Great Britain. Many disturbances happened in different parts of the kingdom, occasioned by the want of a proper civil government; but the most remarkable was at Edinburgh, where at the execution of a smuggler, Porteous, the captain of the city guard, ordered his men to fire among the populace; several innocent persons being killed, he was tried for his life, and being found guilty of murder was condemned, but the queen respited him; which the mob being informed of, they forced open the prison doors, took away the delinquent, and hanged him on a dyer's post. The queen and the administration resented this outrage, and the parliament disabled Alexander Wilson, Esq; lord provost of Edinburgh, from holding any office under the government, and obliged that city to pay 2000*l.* to the widow of Porteous*.

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* This year the belligerents on the continent agreed to peace: Stanislaus abdicated the crown of Poland, and Augustus was universally acknowledged king. Don Carlos was crowned king of Sicily; and the Spanish troops evacuated the Italian provinces, subject to the house of Austria. Lorraine was ceded to France, who guarantied the pragmatic sanction; the duke of Lorraine was made duke of Tuscany, and he married the archduchess Maria Theresa, the eldest daughter to the emperor.

A war broke out this year between the Russians and the Turks, in which the emperor was obliged to take part, in consequence of a treaty offensive and defensive, which he had concluded with the Czarina some time ago. The Russians reduced Asoph on the black sea, and over-run great part of Crim Tartary. This war continued till the year 1739, and then the parties made peace.

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The king being indisposed, in consequence of the fatigue he had undergone in his tempestuous passage from Holland to England, the parliament was opened by commission, and a speech made by the lord chancellor. 10,000 men were granted for the sea service, and almost 18,000 for the land service; the money was raised by the malt and land taxes, and a million borrowed from the sinking fund. The principal subject of debate was a motion made in the house of commons by Mr. Pulteney, that an address be presented to the king, requesting that the sum of 100,000*l. per annum* be settled on the prince of Wales, instead of 50,000*l.* in the same manner, which his majesty enjoyed when he was prince of Wales. The ministry strenuously opposed this measure, because the prince of Wales, with the duke of Argyll, had by this time joined the opposition, and very much embarrassed Sir Robert Walpole. It was clearly proved by those who supported the motion, that 50,000*l.* was not sufficient to defray the prince's annual expences; that including the revenues of Cornwall, all he received did not exceed 52,000*l.* when the taxes and fees were deducted; that the king himself had computed the expence of the prince's household to amount to 63,000*l. per annum*; that the produce of the civil list exceeded 900,000*l.* yearly; 100,000*l.* more than had ever been granted to the late king: they observed that the parliament added 140,000*l.* annually for acts of charity and bounty, and for secret service; which last article, in the late reign, had increased prodigiously, when vast sums had been given for purposes which nobody understood, and to persons whom nobody knew; and that they allowed 100,000*l. per annum*, for the main-

The famous captain and minister prince Eugene, died this year, at Vienna.

In England, the worthy lord chancellor Talbot died: he was succeeded on the bench by lord Hardwicke.

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tainance of the prince of Wales. The motion was rejected after a long and warm debate. Lord Catteret in the house of lords, made a motion of the same kind, which gave rise to a fierce and keen dispute, on the same arguments as in the commons; but it met with no better fate. The minister finding himself ridiculed, his errors, and all the blemishes of his administration, exposed in print, he resolved to check the liberty of the press. A bill was brought in for limiting the number of playhouses, and subjecting all new plays to a licence from the lord chamberlain; because the minister had been ridiculed, and satirized in some theatrical pieces, which had met with an uncommon good reception from the people. Lord Chesterfield opposed their oppressive measure in an admirable speech, proving that the licensing of plays was a restraint on the liberty of the press; though his elocution was most deservedly admired, yet his arguments vanished before ministerial influence, and the bill passed into law. On the 21st. of January 1737. the session was closed.

The motion which was made in both houses of parliament for augmenting the prince of Wales's salary, rendered him offensive to the king, who had before looked somewhat coldly on him, on suspicion that he favoured the members of the opposition, and was forming connexions no way favourable to his ministry. In the month of August, an open breach happened in the royal family; the princess of Wales had advanced to the last month of her pregnancy before the king or queen were made acquainted with it, and at the time when her labour-pains were supposed to be approaching, he hurried her from Hampton-Court to St. James's palace, still keeping her condition unknown to the king: about two hours after her arrival she was delivered of a princess. When the king was apprized of this event, he sent a message to the prince, signi-

signifying his displeasure at his conduct, which he considered as an indignity offered to himself and the queen. The prince in several submissive letters endeavoured to deprecate his majesty's anger; the princess joined her intreaties; they implored the queen's mediation; but all their supplications had no effect; the king's anger increased; he was imposed upon by those who found their interest in fomenting this difference. In a little time he sent another message to the prince, importing, that his conduct for some time had been void of all real duty; that until he withdrew from his confidence, some persons by whose advice he was directed, he should not reside in the palace; and that as soon as it could be done, without prejudice to the princess, he should remove from it with all his family. In obedience to this order he retired to Kew, and afterwards lived at Cliefdon and Norfolk-houses, like a private gentleman; cultivating the polite arts with uncommon assiduity, beloved, revered, and respected, by the whole nation; virtuous, religious, and beneficent; an affectionate husband, a true friend, and a kind master; he possessed an enlivening genius, that like the beam of glory, added new lustre, and kindled fresh warmth by its appearance; his countenance was chearful, his person graceful, and all his manners affable and engaging; none ever went from his presence dissatisfied, and all ranks met him with ardour and affection: he was the minion of a free people, and the companion of the wise and honest, by whom he was incessantly courted; he distinguished himself without offering the least indecency, as a son or subject to his royal parents, with many noble and worthy patriots, by opposing the oppressive and rapacious designs of the minister.

Whatever cause the king might have for his anger with the prince, it cannot but be lamented that all personal interviews were forbid. In the month of

November queen Caroline was taken ill, she languished a few days, and on the 20th she died of a mortification in her bowels, in the 55th year of her age, universally regretted. She enjoyed the esteem of the people in this age of party, with uncommon unanimity, not a little owing to her sagacity, mildness, and numerous virtues. In a word, she was an amiable pattern of conjugal felicity and affection. It was a misfortune that the prince of Wales could not be admitted into the presence of the queen during her last moments, to receive her forgiveness and blessing.

The Spaniards ever since the treaty of Seville, continued their depredations; they seized by force of arms all English traders, for logwood to Campechey bay, or for salt to the island of Totugas, imprisoned the crews, and confiscated the cargoes. These incessant insults, and distresses, inflamed the British nation; the merchants loudly complained of these outrages, and the people cried out for vengeance. The minister was cold and timorous, he knew that a war would take away the treasure from being employed upon domestic purposes, to the equipping of armaments; that he should then be involved in difficulties, and his administration endangered; therefore he used his utmost efforts to prevent a war, by all the arts of chicanery and procrastination.

On the 24th of January 1738, the session of parliament was opened. The standing army was excellently disputed, but at length imposed. The Spanish depredations fell next under their consideration; they received the petitions of the merchants, from the principal trading towns in England, heard their counsel, and examined evidence, by which it appeared the most wanton and amazing acts of barbarity and injustice had been committed by the Spanish guarda costas. Mr. Pulteney demonstrated from treaties,
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the right which the English had to trade to Campechey and Tortugas; he expatiated on numberless circumstances of cruelty, he exposed the pusillanimity of the minister and his loquacious and trifling negotiations; he moved for such resolutions, as would shew the resentment of an injured nation, and the vigour of a British parliament; but it was carried in the negative by the power of the minister: however, an address to the king was procured, praying him that he would do justice to the injured nation. Mr. Pulteney brought in a bill, for the more effectually securing and encouraging the trade of his majesty's subjects in America; it was supported by the best orators, with great eloquence and satire; but the power of the minister consigned it to oblivion. On the 20th of May the session was closed.

On the 4th of June the princess of Wales was delivered of a son, who is now the sovereign of these realms; his birth was celebrated with great rejoicings, and the king received addresses of congratulation on this occasion. The prince of Wales still continued under his displeasure, and an order was published in the Gazette, forbidding all persons to appear at St. James's, who visited the prince. This order only served to strengthen the opposition, at the head of which the prince publicly put himself. Norfolk-house in St. James's square, where he resided, became the fashionable court, and it was the great resort of all the political part of the kingdom, as well as incredible numbers of the well wishers to the protestant succession, from their avowed hatred to the minister and his measures.

About the latter end of June, admiral Haddock sailed for Spain with a strong squadron, and it was hoped that his appearance in the Mediterranean, would give weight to the British negotiations, at Madrid now on foot; but he was unprovided with land forces, to commit any act of hostility, nor had he any orders: there-

therefore he remained at Gibraltar, in a state of inactivity; while every corner of the kingdom continued to resound with exclamations against the minister.

In the month of October, the prince and princess of Wales, set out from Cliefdon house in Bucks, for Bath and Bristol: they were received with raptures, and the most distinguished honours wherever they came; and their virtuous condescensions endeared them to the people, who testified by every possible means, the most warm and sincere marks of respect and affection.

On the 14th of January 1739, a convention was signed at Madrid, by the British minister, Mr. Benjamin Keene, wherein it was stipulated that plenipotentiaries, should settle the differences between the two nations, and the king of Spain should pay to king George 95,000*l.* as a balance due to the crown and to the subjects of Great-Britain. The principles on which this convention was founded were indefensible, so that the people increased every day in their clamours against the minister. The Spaniards at this time made an unfair claim of 68,000*l.* on the South-Sea company. Every thing tended to render the government odious; the brave Haddock was suffered to languish in the Mediterranean, and the English ships in America, to continue inactive: none dared to avenge their country's wrongs. The people were exasperated against the ministry and the Spaniards beyond any degree of credibility. *No search! no search!* was the general cry.

The parliament had been ordered to meet on the 18th of January, but the session was not opened till the first of February, which delay evidently shewed the distress of the minister. The convention fell first under their cognizance; Sir Robert Walpole defended this offspring of his phlegmatic genius, with specious arguments; he said that the peace, which it precluded, would be more advantageous to Great-Britain,

Britain, than any which could be procured, by the most successful war; that it would be hereafter considered as the most glorious period of our history, and counsel; and lastly, he plaistered it over with the most extravagant encomiums. The merchants of London, and the principal towns in England, presented petitions against it. No words can express the alarmed and provoked condition of the merchants, when they saw the copies of this convention, which were printed by authority. The eyes of the whole kingdom were now turned on the house of commons. Both parties in this house prepared with eagerness for the dispute. On that day which the debate was to come on, 400 members had taken their seats by eight o'clock in the morning. On the 8th of March, Mr. Horatio Walpole launched out in praise of the convention, and moved for an address of approbation to the king. The merits of it were next sharply and firmly disputed by the members in the opposition, who were joined by the adherents of the prince of Wales, and he himself was in the gallery. Sir Thomas Sanderson, treasurer to the prince, now earl of Scarborough, observed that the Spaniards, by the convention, had procured a general release, instead of giving us reparation; they had allowed the word *satisfaction*, to be mentioned only once in the treaty; the Spanish pirate who had cut off the ear of captain Jenkins*,
and

* Captain Jenkins was commander of one of those vessels which had been boarded by the Spanish guarda costas. His ship was rummaged on pretence of searching for contraband commodities, but finding nothing that might justify their search, they insulted Jenkins in the most abusive language, they tore off one of his ears, wounded him in several places, and tortured him with the most shocking cruelties; they ordered him to carry his ear to his king, and to tell him that they would serve him in the same manner if they had the opportunity. This bold seaman was examined at the bar of the house of commons, where his ear was produced:
he

and had used the most insulting expressions against the king, was suffered to enjoy his lawless rapine and plunder, and to remain a living testimony of the cowardly tameness and mean submission of Great-Britain. Lord Gage, who was sensible, keen, and sarcastic, said, the losses sustained by the Spanish depredations amounted to 340,000*l.* but the commissary by a stroke of his pen reduced the demand to 200,000*l.* then 45,000*l.* was struck off for prompt payment; next 60,000*l.* was allotted for the payment of a pretended debt due to Spain for destroying her fleet, by Sir George Byng, though it appeared by instructions on the table, that Spain had already received ample satisfaction on that head. When these deductions were made, the balance was only 95,000*l.* and the king of Spain insisted on the South-Sea company's paying him 68,000*l.* as a debt due to him, on one head of accounts, though it appeared in other articles, that the king of Spain was indebted to them upwards of a million, over and above the demands. Mr. William Pitt, exclaimed against the inhuman tyranny of Spain, and the fallacy of the convention. Mr. Lyttleton inveighed against the speech of Walpole; after persuading us, said he, to any peace, good or bad, by pointing out the dangers of war, dangers I by no means allow to be such as he represents them, he crowned all these terrors with the name of the pretender; he affirmed, that had the ministers proceeded

he was interrogated by a member what he thought, when he was in the hands of those barbarians; to which he replied, that he recommended his soul to God, and his cause to his country. This noble reply, the sight of his ear, his detail of his sufferings, and the indignities offered to the sovereign, threw the house in a flame; this brave man's wrongs filled the members of the opposition with indignation, and all, except the adherents of the minister, who saw nor felt any spring of agitation or public spirit, but at his command, pitied his condition, and loudly exclaimed against the supineness of the ministry, and the injuries of their country,

according

according to the intentions of the parliament, there would have been, either a solid peace or an open war, before this time, but instead of either of these, the dispute was referred to plenipotentiaries; "would you Sir, said he, submit to a reference, whether you may travel unmolested from your house in town, to your house in the country? your right is clear and undeniable; why would you have it discussed? but much less would you refer it, if two of your judges belonged to a gang, which has often stopped and robbed you in your way thither before". Mr. Pulteney, and Sir William Wyndham, were not behind hand in this debate; they attacked the concessions of the ministry with a patriot zeal hardly to be equalled; and they spared no eloquence against the insolence of Spain. At length the motion was carried in favour of the ministry, by a majority of only 28; which considering the power of the minister, gave great spirits to the opposition; and though they did not carry this point, they failed not to prognosticate his downfall to be near at hand. Sir William Wyndham, rose, and made one of the finest speeches which had ever been pronounced in that house: he concluded his pathetic remonstrance with this emphatical prayer: "I sincerely pray to Almighty God, who has so often wonderfully protected these kingdoms, that he will graciously continue his protection over them, by preventing us from that impending danger, which threatens the nation from without, and likewise from that impending danger, which threatens our constitution from within." The minister in his reply deviated from his usual moderation; he attacked Sir William with personal abuse, and he branded all the members of the opposition as traitors. The parties were inflamed to such a degree of animosity, that about sixty members of the opposition, among whom were all the chiefs, actually seceded from the house, and retired to their country seats,

and elsewhere, and were looked upon by the nation, as martyrs to the liberties of the people.

In the house of peers the convention was debated with greater abilities; Mr. Keene's conduct was severely censured. An act passed for granting the Duke of Cumberland 15,000*l.* *per annum*; and 24,000*l.* to the princesses Amelia, Carolina, Mary, and Louisa. The duke of Newcastle then produced the subsidy treaty, which the king had concluded with the king of Denmark, whereby he had obliged himself to pay 70,000*l.* *per annum* to the Dane, on condition of his furnishing 6000 men, when demanded by the king of Great-Britain. These troops, as lord Carteret observed, could not be of any use in any expedition against Spain, the only power which Great-Britain at present had to fear; therefore they could only be for the defence of Hanover; nevertheless the house granted the money. The crown being gratified in every particular, the session was closed on the 14th of June.

On the 10th of July, orders were given for making reprisals on the Spaniards. Letters of marque were issued, and on the 20th Admiral Vernon was sent to the West-Indies; perhaps because he had been a troublesome censor to Sir Robert Walpole in the house of commons, and because he had declared he could take Porto-Bello with only six ships. The most provoking insolence of the Spaniards, and the cries of revenge at home, obliged the ministry to proceed to hostilities. The king of Spain refused to pay the 95,000*l.* mentioned in the convention, because his demand on the South Sea company was not complied with, or to renounce his claim of searching the British trading vessels. War was declared by both monarchs, and vigorous preparations were made for carrying it on. The Dutch refused to come into the measures of Great Britain, and the French shewed a design of entering into the interest of Spain, as common with them-

themselves, about which the British court affected to be not in the least concerned.

On the 20th of November Admiral Vernon took the Spanish town Porto Bello with only six ships. The Spaniards deserted their forts, and such was their pusillanimity, that they suffered them to be taken almost without bloodshed. Vernon found more difficulty in demolishing the fortifications of the place than in taking it.

On the 15th of this month the two houses of parliament met, and the session was opened: after the usual addresses, another was presented by both houses to the King, beseeching him never to conclude any treaty with Spain, except the right of the English, to navigate the American seas, without being searched, be first acknowledged. The pension bill was brought in, and being vigorously supported by Mr. Pulteney, Sir William Wyndham, and Mr Lyttleton, passed the house of commons, but in the lords it was lost upon a division.

The commons granted the crown all its demands; they voted 28,000 land forces and 6000 marines; they enabled the king to equip a powerful navy, to make good his subsidy to the king of Denmark, to give 40,000l. with his daughter the princess Mary, who was shortly to be espoused to the prince of Hesse, and to deduct from the sinking fund 1,200,000l. for extraordinary expences, not mentioned in the estimates: the supplies this year amounted to four millions, and the land tax was now levied at four shillings in the pound. On the 29th of April 1740 the session concluded, and at the beginning of May the king set out for Hanover.

Vernon's victory was celebrated throughout the kingdom with extravagant public rejoicings. After his success at Porto Bello, he bombarded Carthagená and took San Lorenzo, a fort situated on the river Chagre, not far from Porto Bello. Commodore Anson with a small squadron set sail for the South Seas to distress the

enemy on the coasts of Chili and Peru, and to co-operate occasionally with Admiral Vernon, on the other side the isthmus of Darien; but this well laid scheme was almost ruined by unnecessary delays before its departure from England. The Spaniards on the contrary hand, threatened to invade England with a body of troops under the command of the Duke of Ormond, assisted by a powerful squadron. Upon receipt of this intelligence Sir John Norris sailed with a large fleet to Spithead, on board of which was the Duke of Cumberland; but at length advice coming that the French and Spanish squadrons were gone for America, the design of Sir John Norris's going to Ferrol was laid aside. A formidable armament was equipped against new Spain, the command of the land forces amounting to about 6000 men was given to Lord Cathcart, a brave and experienced officer: the fleet consisting of 27 ships of the line, besides frigates, fire ships, bomb-ketches and tenders was under the direction of Sir Chaloner Ogle; but the delay this expedition met with at home proved its ruin.

In Europe, during the course of this year, the scene of affairs was entirely changed: king George concluded a subsidy treaty with the landgrave of Hesse, who, in consideration of his receiving annually 250,000 crowns engaged to furnish 6000 men for four years. In May, William II. king of Prussia died, and his son Frederic succeeded him. In October, Charles the VI. Emperor of Germany, and the last Prince of the house of Austria, died at Vienna, and was succeeded in his hereditary dominions by his eldest daughter the archduchess Maria Theresa, who had espoused the grand duke of Tuscany. Though she succeeded, as queen of Hungary, by virtue of the pragmatic sanction, which was guarantied by all the powers in Europe; yet this succession occasioned a bloody war in Germany. The elector of Bavaria refused to acknowledge her queen of Hungary and Bohemia,

Bohemia, because he laid claim to these countries himself, as the descendant of the Emperor Ferdinand I. The young king of Prussia, immediately on the death of the Emperor, suddenly entered Silesia with a considerable body of troops, and seized certain fiefs to which his family laid claim, and published a manifesto, declaring that he had no intention to oppose the pragmatic sanction. The Czarina of Russia died a few days after the emperor, and was succeeded by Iwan, the infant son of her niece, the princess Anne of Mecklenburg, but the duke of Courland was appointed regent.

The sudden step which the king of Prussia took alarmed all the powers in Europe, and particularly affected king George. Great Britain was now in a disagreeable situation, distracted by numerous insurrections and all the internal commotions of enraged party, at war with Spain, and on the point of being involved in another with France; no prospect of being assisted by the Dutch, who were overawed by the French, and exposed to greater expences than ever she had borne before, with her national forces augmented to 51,515 men, exclusive of the Irish establishment. Had Great Britain not been connected with Germany, she could have maintained a successful war against Spain and France; but it was her misfortune to labour under grievous oppressions, to see her money drained by the greedy hand of implicit obedience, and then to be sunk in the foreign and mysterious vortex of German politics. †

On

† This year, the grievances of the poor, and trading people of all ranks, were doubly great: besides the heavy and enormous taxes which they were obliged to pay, they were distressed from Christmas to the latter end of February by a more severe frost, than perhaps had ever been felt in any part of Europe, south of Greenland. The navigation of the Thames was entirely stopped, and it was covered over with ice; water was sold about the streets in London; watermen, fishermen, and all mechanics, who worked in the open air, were totally disabled from getting a livelihood: the

On the 18th of November the king opened the session of parliament. The members of the opposition were determined to remove the minister from his majesty's confidence; the burdens of the people were every day increasing, the war was not carried on with spirit, and above all, he was so universally odious that his name was never mentioned with decency except by his dependents. Mr. Sandy, made a motion for removing Sir Robert Walpole from his majesty's presence and councils for ever, having previously in a studied speech expatiated on his mal-administration: he said every one knew who was the adviser and promoter of all measures, therefore the discontents, the reproaches, and even the curses of the people, were all directed against that single person, and they never expected an alteration of measures while he had any share in the government. He then charged him with having endeavoured to support his own interest, and to form a despotic government, and with having betrayed the honour and interest of his

the fruits of the earth were destroyed by the excessive cold; the price of all provisions were as dear and as scarce as in a time of dearth, and fuel was hardly to be purchased: numbers were chilled to death; even the fowls of the air were frequently seen to drop down dead by the severe cold. The hand of charity was never more liberally opened to relieve the distresses of unfortunate families than at this time; they were industriously sought after; and many were found to conceal their misery from motives of ingenuous shame: the solitary habitations of the widow, the orphan and the helpless, were constantly visited, and if they refused to receive the charitable donations, they were privately conveyed to them, that the delicacy of their constitutions might not be shocked. Those of opulent fortunes opened their purses, and exerted themselves in assisting all the poor they knew or could find. This remarkable spirit of compassion and humanity, and the numerous acts of benevolence and well conducted charity, which prevented thousands from perishing by hunger and cold, reflect more honour on the English nation than all the victories gained by its arms during the whole reign.

country in the late convention. The motion was supported by Mr. John Barnard, Mr. Pulteney and other patriots; but the debate continuing till three o'clock in the morning, when sixty members in the opposition had retired, the motion was rejected by the majority. The commons granted 40,000 seamen for the ensuing year, and about 30,000 men for the land service; they provided for the subsidies payable to the king of Denmark and the landgrave of Hesse. 300,000*l.* was granted to the queen of Hungary on a motion made by Sir Robert Walpole. In the house of peers lord Carteret made a motion for removing Sir Robert Walpole from his majesty's presence and councils for ever: he took a retrospect of all the public affairs since the revolution; he explained the nature of every treaty which had been concluded under the present administration; he described the political connections of all Europe, and he exposed the misconduct and the iniquity of the minister. The duke of Argyle who had resigned all his employments, and joined with the lords of the opposition, vigorously supported the motion with an extraordinary spirit of patriot indignation. Their speeches on this occasion, were truly admirable, and would have done honour to the best orators of Greece or Rome. The debate lasted two days; at length the motion was rejected, upon which 30 peers entered into a protest. Though the minister gained this victory, yet his character was so wounded by this vigorous protest, that every body perceived the period of his influence to be at no great distance. On the 25th of April 1741 the session was closed; and the parliament dissolved, and soon after the king set out for Hanover.

The king of Prussia's progress in Silesia was rapid and successful; he publicly entered Breslau, the capital, and his troops seized the other fortified places. The queen of Hungary, fearful of his designs, as he had attacked her without any sort of provocation, ordered

ordered count Neuperg to assemble an army and oppose the Prussians in Silesia. This general attacked the Prussian army at Molwitz; but after an obstinate dispute, in which he lost near 4000 men, he was obliged to quit the field and abandon Silesia. In this day of trouble to the queen of Hungary, she was deserted by all her friends except the king of Great Britain, who declared strongly in her favour. The 300,000*l.* granted by parliament was remitted to her, the troops of Hanover were augmented, the auxiliary Danes and Hessians in the pay of great Britain were ordered to be in readiness to march, and a number of British forces encamped and prepared for embarkation. The Bavarian troops, assisted by a corps of Prussians, entered Bohemia; Count Neuperg was obliged to withdraw from Silesia to check their progress. The king of Prussia having nothing to oppose him in the field, entered Moravia and took Olmutz the capital: then he formed a camp of observation near Magdebourg, opposite to Hanover, because he had been told there was a proposal made to the court of Vienna for attacking his dominions, and dividing the conquest. France eagerly seized this opportunity for crushing the house of Austria: Marechal Mallebois, with a numerous army, was sent into Westphalia to intimidate the elector of Hanover, and the design was effected. King George signed a treaty of neutrality for Hanover, and engaged to vote for the elector of Bavaria at the ensuing election for emperor. It was the design of the French king to raise this prince to the imperial dignity, and if this point was gained, his conquests in the empire and the Netherlands would be unlimited, and his advantages infinite, with this view he sent another large army into Germany under marshal Broglio. Prague, the capital of Bohemia, was taken by the French and Bavarians, and the elector crowned king: even Vienna must have fallen a prey to their arms had

had it not been covered by count Palfi with 30,000 Hungarians. The queen fled to Presburg in Hungary, and there pronounced a pathetic speech to the states, who were so touched with her condition, that they assured her unanimously they would sacrifice their lives and fortunes in her defence; the subsidy which she received from Great Britain, enabled her to erect magazines, and to pay those troops, without which their fidelity would have flagged. She had a good ministry and able generals. Several advantages in a short time were gained over the enemy: the French were drove out of Austria: several towns were taken, and all Bavaria laid under contribution. However the elector was elected emperor. The Dutch at length began to augment their troops: the king of Sardinia declared in favour of the queen of Hungary, and the republic of Genoa against her. A difference broke out between the Swedes and the Russians, but it was afterwards settled.

The British affairs were not so fortunate. The grand expedition under Sir Chalenor Ogle, arrived at Dominica, a neutral island in the West Indies, where lord Cathcart, who commanded the land forces, an experienced officer, of unblemished honour and courage, died, and was succeeded in the command by general Wentworth, a man without experience, talents or resolution. About the beginning of January 1741, Sir Chalenor Ogle joined admiral Vernon at Jamaica: the fleet now consisted of 115 vessels, 29 of which were of the line, with 15,000 sailors, and about 12,000 land forces.* In a council of war it was

* Had the fleet been sent sooner from England, it is possible this expedition would not have miscarried; it was the misfortune of its officers not to reach the Spanish main till the month of March; and in April it is well known the periodical rains begin, which occasion such a change in the atmosphere as to render the climate extremely unhealthy: during these excessive rains, which continue two months, it is not possible for any army to keep the field.

resolved to attack Carthagena, a strong and large town of Spanish America. The fleet, which was under the command of Vernon, forced their way into the harbour; the troops were landed, and several forts which guarded it were taken; lord Aubrey Beauclerc, a brave officer, who commanded the Prince Frederic man of war, was killed in the attack on the enemies batteries. A difference broke out between Vernon and Wentworth, the former complained loudly of the latter's inactivity, and did all in his power to thwart him. Wentworth complained that the ships lay idle, while his troops were harassed by severe duty and destroyed by the epidemic distemper. They held each other in contempt, and maintained separate cabals for each other's disgrace. Vernon said he could not bring his ships near enough to batter the town of Carthagena; he affirmed it was commanded by fort Lazar situated on a hill and it might be taken by scalade: Wentworth attacked it, but in a very injudicious manner; his troops were sorely galled by the Spaniards, and after losing 600 of their best men, and some gallant officers, they retreated. The rains were now so heavy they could not encamp; the distemper raged so violently among the troops, that they were carried off in hundreds: at length they were re-embarked, and the fleet returned to Jamaica, having lost near 20,000 men in their fatal expedition, from which the English nation had expected so much, and which afterwards occasioned such general dissatisfaction in every part of it. A design had been formed for attacking St. Jago in Hispaniola but it was defeated: this island of Rattan, which abounds with logwood, was taken, but it was afterwards abandoned.

The French openly assisted the Spaniards particularly in carrying their property on board their ships, upon pretence that "free bottoms made free goods." They sent fleets to the West Indies from Brest and Toulon, and repaired the fortifications of Dunkirk.

Their

Their fleet from Toulon convoyed a Spanish squadron through the Straights of Gibraltar, where admiral Haddock was stationed. When he attempted to attack the Spaniards, the French admiral told him he would assist his master's allies; upon which Haddock desisted. But this transaction was not so pacificly heard in England, where the people clamoured, and affirmed that the English admiral's hands were tied up by the treaty of Hanover. The Spaniards sent a fleet to the South Sea after commodore Anson, but it was almost totally destroyed by tempests. The British navy was so inactive, through the backwardness of the ministry, as to excite the ridicule and contempt of both friends and enemies; upwards of 100 ships manned by 54,000 sailors were in commission, and they did not even protect the trade. The land forces, exclusive of foreign mercenaries, amounted to 60,000 men.

The election for members of parliament produced violent contests all over the kingdom; the abhorrence which the people had to the minister occasioned their vigorously opposing his influence; his opposers in England were backed by the prince of Wales, and in Scotland by the duke of Argyle; in both places they were so successful as to gain the majority of representatives. On the 4th of December the session was opened. The address of the commons occasioned a warm debate, whether they should promise to defend the king's electoral dominions, and return thanks for the prosecution of the war? The minister was sharply opposed by that ever memorable and incorruptable patriot Mr. Shippen; Mr. Pulteny and other gentlemen: they affirmed, the people were apprehensive of being sacrificed to the security of foreign dominions; that the war had been most egregiously managed; and are we, said they, to return thanks for defeats, disgrace and losses. The address, in its original form, was carried by a small majority.

The minister now saw he had lost his numbers, and though this was a victory to him, yet the opposers were elated to find themselves so numerous, and they knew they should be augmented. The minister's hope lay in the disputed elections, in order to turn the balance in his favour, but he had the mortification to see them carried against him. Now he resolved to resign; but first he took every precaution to prevent an impeachment: he was conscious he tottered on the brink of ruin, and that a single vote would at any time commit him to the Tower. For the sake of self-security, he resolved to divide the opposition. He employed his credit and dexterity, and his emissaries tampered with some of the members. The bishop of Oxford sent a message to the prince of Wales, importing, that if his royal highness would write a letter of condescension to the king, he and all his counsellors should be taken into favour, 50,000*l.* should be added to his revenue, 200,000*l.* be disbursed for the immediate payment of his debts, and suitable provision be made in due time for all his followers. This proposal was declined by the prince, who declared he would accept no such conditions while Sir Robert Walpole continued to direct the public affairs; he looked upon him as a bar between his majesty and the affections of his people; as the author of all the national grievances both at home and abroad, and the sole cause of that contempt which Great Britain had incurred in all the courts in Europe. The opposition now loudly demanded the fall of an odious minister, at least as a sacrifice to an injured people. Sir Robert Walpole perceiving the violence of the house, and how greatly he was detested in it, immediately left it, and declared he would never come there again. Next day, February 4, 1742, the king adjourned both houses of parliament, for twelve days, which occasioned a great ferment; many declaring it was done merely for to screen the minister,

nister, who, in the interim, resigned all his employments, and was created earl of Orford.

A weak and worthless ministry being removed, a new one was appointed, principally out of the adherents to the prince of Wales. Mr. Sandys was appointed chancellor of the exchequer; lord Wilmington, first lord of the treasury; lord Harrington, lord president; lord Carteret, secretary of state; the duke of Argyle, field-marshal; but he soon resigned, and this post was given to the earl of Stair; Mr. Pulteney was sworn privy-councillor, and created earl of Bath. The prince of Wales, attended by the heads of the opposition, waited on the king, who received him graciously, and ordered his guards to be restored. The earl of Orford gained his grand point in dividing the members of the opposition, in order to prevent so full and minute an enquiry into his conduct, as might endanger his safety; and indeed the principal thing which the court required of the new ministry, was to permit the earl of Orford to escape with impunity. When a select committee of the commons examined into ten years of his administration, they found the article of secret service only, amounted to 1,453,400*l*. They found many acts of fraud and corruption, particularly in issuing money for influencing elections; 50,000*l*. had been given to pay authors, printers, &c. who had been employed in defence of the ministry. They found he had been concerned in granting fraudulent contracts for paying the troops in the West-Indies. Some persons who refused to give evidence on this examination were taken into custody, and on the very day which the minister resigned, it appeared he had signed orders on the civil list revenues, for 30,000*l*. and had pawned those orders to a banker. The committee were preparing another report, when they were interrupted by the prorogation of the parliament. 50,000*l*. was granted to the queen of Hungary; the expences of

of the year were estimated at six millions, which were granted, and the session closed on the 15th of July*.

The queen of Hungary, by the supplies she received from England, was enabled to assemble two considerable armies, one of which she put under the command of prince Charles of Lorrain. He drove the Prussians and Saxons out of Moravia, and advanced into Bohemia to attack the French, who must have fallen a sacrifice to superior numbers, had not the king of Prussia immediately entered that kingdom, and opposed the progress of the Austrians. These two armies met at Czaślaw, and fought an obstinate and bloody battle; at first the Austrians gained a great advantage, but committing some irregularities, the Prussians seized the opportunity to rally, and returning to the charge, drove the Austrians out of the field, with the loss of 5000 men, though not without sustaining near an equal loss themselves. The king of Prussia after this battle, conceived a disgust to the war, and under the mediation of king George, he concluded a treaty with the queen of Hungary, who ceded to him Silesia, with the county of Glatz, upon his promise that he would observe a strict neutrality during the war.

* Impartiality obliges us to remark, that after the king had been in some sort compelled to part with his favourite minister, for whom he had great affection, and in whom he placed unlimited confidence, it became almost a matter of indifference to him who served him in the affairs of government.

No sooner did Mr. Pulteney embrace the offers of the court, and accept of the title of *earl of Bath*, than he was forsaken by his popularity; he was no more the first and firm patriot, or the shining ornament of his country, but an object of contempt in the eyes of his friends, and the whole nation. Lord Carteret, who was termed the minister, and Mr. Sandys, next embraced the offers of the court, and they were followed by many others, who also possessed pliant principles, and an unbounded ambition. Strange that such talents, which had been most justly and universally admired, which had long defended the causes of public liberty and virtue, should in a moment turn apostates, for an empty title, or the blandishments of power and affluence!

The

The French in Bohemia finding themselves thus abandoned by their ally, immediately retired under the cannon of Prague, which place was soon after closely blockaded by the Austrians, and continued some time, so that the French suffered great hardships by the want of provisions. When the court of Versailles were informed of this, they ordered marshal Maillibois to march from the Rhine to their relief, and bring them off; but when he entered Bohemia, he found the Austrians in possession of all the passes and mountains, therefore he retired, after sustaining some loss from the Austrian light troops, who harassed him greatly in his march. Mean while winter drew on, and the French in Prague, commanded by marshal Broglio, and count de Belleisle, were reduced to the eating of horse flesh, and exposed to the severities of a most rigorous season. Broglio found means to escape in the habit of courier. They were now reduced to the alternative of perishing by famine or by war. About the middle of December, Belleisle formed a scheme of retreating with his garrison; he put it in execution about midnight, when he departed from Prague with 14,000 men, and thirty pieces of cannon. He chose an unfrequented broken road, and marched with such expedition, notwithstanding the weakness and fatigue of his army, and the country covered with snow, that he reached the mountains before he was overtaken by the Austrian Hussars, who however could make no impression on the main body of his army; they took not a man, except those who were unable to march by faintness, cold, or hunger; many hundreds of these perished in the snow, and those who did not, were butchered by the Austrian irregulars. At length he reached Egra, and then prosecuted his march without molestation. The Austrians returned to Prague, the garrison of which consisting of 900 men, made an honourable

honourable capitulation, in consequence of some of the principal citizens being taken away by Belleisle as hostages for their safety.

The king of Great-Britain resolved to make a diversion in the Netherlands, though the Dutch at this time had not consented to favour his cause or inclination*. 16,000 British troops were embarked and sent for Germany, where they were joined by as many Hanoverians, and 6000 Hessians, all in the pay of Great-Britain, under the command of the earl of Stair: late in the season they were joined by some Austrians, and then they went into winter quarters, about Ghent, Brussels, and Liege.

The court of Spain having claimed some part of the Austrian dominions in Italy; this part of Europe was next embroiled in the war. An English fleet was sent into the Mediterranean under the direction of admiral Matthews, a brave officer, who professed great openness and freedom in his behaviour, but was hot and passionate, in order to assist the queen of Hungary against the Spaniards, and co-operate with the measures of the king of Sardinia. Matthews was assisted by admiral Lestock, who had succeeded admiral Haddock. The king of Naples sent 20,000 troops to join the Spaniards, upon which Matthews detached commodore Martin, with a small squadron to Naples, and obliged that monarch to recall his troops, or he would bombard his capital. The Spanish army, thus weakened, were not able to make

* From this time to the year 1748, the fruitless, unsuccessful, bloody, and expensive German war, became the first object of attention in the British counsels. Great Britain, from being an umpire, became a principal in these continental quarrels, and intailed upon herself the whole burden of supporting them, by lavishing away her treasure to the emolument of some hungry Germans, and her blood in the defence of a puny electorate. The national war against Spain, now became but a secondary consideration.

head against the Sardinians and Austrians, who drove them into the south of Italy; and the duke of Modena from his capital, because he had joined them. The Spanish magazines at Genoa were destroyed by admiral Matthews.

In America, the Spaniards made a descent upon Georgia, and shewed a design of attacking Carolina; but governor Oglethorpe opposed them with great bravery, and at length obliged them to retire with considerable loss. Vernon and Wentworth were called home, and the fleet with the marines were left under the command of Sir Chalenor Ogle.

On the 16th of November, the session of parliament was opened. The spirit of party seemed now to rage with greater violence than ever. The new m—— was as odious as the old one had been, because he had run such great lengths in foreign connections, in purchasing beggarly allies, and maintaining mercenary armies, as seemed to threaten the impoverishment of his country. The same language which had been used by Sir Robert Walpole and his abettors against the opposition, was now adopted by the new converts, who with false reasonings, and partial representations, argued on the defence of Hanover and a land war against France, with violence and declamation. They were answered, refuted, and severely stigmatised by the few remaining staunch friends of public virtue. The motion for keeping the Hanoverians in British pay, was attacked with surprising resolution; the debate was long and obstinate; but at length the motion was carried in favour of the court. The gin act was repealed after a warm debate, and the mutiny bill passed. The commons granted six millions for supplies, and the session was closed on the 21st of April 1743. The king immediately embarked for Hanover, accompanied by the duke of Cumberland, lord Carteret, and other persons of distinction *.

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* The loud and clamorous cry against Hanover, frequent journies to it, continental wars, &c. are, by some, considered as the first spark which kindled up the flame of rebellion two years after. From such appearances of discontent, the pretenders friend's
abroad,

The British troops with their auxillaries, amounting in all to 40,000 men were assembled, and in May encamped on the river Mayne. The French king, apprehending that prince Charles of Lorraine intended to join this army, assembled another of 60,000 men on the Mayne, under the command of marshal Noailles, who chose such a convenient situation, and immediately took possession of such parts of the country, as totally prevented the allies from bringing any provision to their camp. When king George joined his army he found it in danger of starving; the French were on the other side of the river, and had batteries erected along its banks; he was informed that 12,000 Hanoverians and Hessians were at Hanau ready to join him, upon which he resolved to march thither, as well to effect the junction, as to get provisions for his troops. He removed his head quarters from Ascaffenburgh, and began to march towards Dettin-gen, both of which places were at that instant seized by the enemy. Notwithstanding he was thus almost surrounded, and the enemy's cannon playing on his flank, he continued to march; in this condition he

abroad, believed that the people of Great Britain were inclined to restore the Stuart family: the French court spared no pains to instil and cherish this darling hope in the pretender and his friends, and Cardinal Tencin, who owed his rise to him, openly and warmly espoused his cause at Versailles. It is true there were numbers in England who wished well to that cause, and some who were zealous in it; perhaps many of them found it an uncomfortable theme to reflect on the numerous and heavy taxes, the increased annual expences, and the growing debts, under which they laboured; likewise their poverty and ruin of their commerce; all which they could not but think were brought on by embarking this nation into a German war, merely for the defence of Hanover, without any possibility of producing the least advantage to Great Britain; who, thus yoked to the continent, and to continental wars, must supply them with men and money, not only at the hazard of her internal safety, but of the whole of her wealth; while many of her head men, who ought to be, as they were of old, the supporters of her bulwarks, properties, laws and liberties, were half Germanized; and being of course separated from an honest and strict consideration of her true interest, were pursuing a costly and bloody phantom of whim, caprice, and parade. How unlike are these to those glorious days of determinative expence? before this nation was chained down to the rock of adversity; before its brave troops were compelled to wade into inhospitable regions, and combat with foes whose names, till within this century, we never heard of?

was compelled to fight at a very great disadvantage, or to surrender: fortunately for the allies, the duke de Gramont, a hot headed youth, who commanded a considerable part of the French army, and who was posted in a hollow way in their front, came out of his ambush much sooner than the marshal Noailles intended; upon this discovery, the battle began; king George behaved with the utmost intrepidity, and frequently exposed his person. Lord Stair, shewed himself an able general on this occasion; the French at Aschaffenburg designed to attack the rear of the allies, but he defeated their project, by ordering some cannon for their reception; he rallied the broken regiments of cavalry, and brought them to the charge; the king saw his infantry determine the fate of the day in his favour, and he saw the French repass the Mayne, without molestation, after losing near 5000 men. Lord Stair proposed a pursuit, but it was over-ruled for some reasons, which to this day are unknown: but such was the hurry of the conquerors to get away from the scene of action, that they left their sick and wounded to the mercy of the French, who it must be owned, treated them with great care, tenderness, and humanity, at the request of lord Stair. The duke of Cumberland was wounded in this action, and the brave general Clayton was killed. The allies gained no kind of advantage, excepting joining a body of their confederates at Hanau, nor did the French lose one inch of ground, as they were permitted to recover from their consternation without any disturbance. The allies remained inactive during the rest of the campaign. In September they were joined by 20,000 Dutch, and in October they went into winter quarters. The motion which this army made after the battle of Dettingen, were fruit- and ridiculous: lord Stair was unwilling that his reputation should suffer, by measures in which he had no concern; he therefore obtained leave to re-

sign; and retired an illustrious monument of neglected merit. A treaty was concluded at Worms, between the kings of Great-Britain and Sardinia, and the queen of Hungary. The latter engaged to furnish 30,000 men to act in Italy, and the former to give the king of Sardinia annually the sum of 280,000*l.* on condition of his furnishing 45,000 more.

The emperor in the mean time was only the shadow of royalty, he fled about from one part of Germany to another, just as the tide of war seemed to ebb or flow. The Baravian army was defeated at Branaw, by prince Charles of Lorrain, with the loss of 4000 men. The French were driven almost totally out of Germany, by the Austrian armies, whose generals visited the king of Great-Britain at Hanau. In Italy the Spanish army commanded by count Gage, advanced to attack the Austrian and Piedmontese forces, commanded by count Traun, in Modena: at a place called Campo Santo, they came to an action, which was for some time obstinate and indecisive; at length the Spaniards retired with the loss of 4000 men. Don Philip entered Savoy, and joined a considerable body of French forces, who afterwards attacked the Piedmontese, but without success. Admiral Matthews continued in the Mediterranean, where he was reinforced by several ships, in order to watch the motions of the French and Spanish fleets in the harbour of Toulon.

The British war in America was unsuccessful: commodore Knowles was sent with a squadron of ships to attack La Gueira and Porto Cavallo; at the former, he was so well received, as to be obliged to get away; at the latter, his men were seized with a panic, upon which he retired to his station in the West-Indies.

In England the disputes about Hanover were wrought to an extraordinary pitch of malevolence and exasperation, It was affirmed that the British
general

general had been neglected, that the Hanoverians had too much weight, that the sovereign appeared at Dettingen in an Hanoverian scarf, and indulged those mercenaries with particular marks of royal favour; and that they were of little service in the day of battle. These reports made a strong impression on the minds of the people already irritated by supporting a continental war for the interest of Germany. When the parliament met in the beginning of December, a motion was made to discontinue the Hanoverians in British pay after Christmas day; lord Chesterfield declared, better troops might be hired at a less expence: many excellent arguments adorned this famous debate, which at length terminated in favour of the court. The supplies amounted to six millions and a half; to this sum were added three millions and a half, payed to the sinking fund in perpetual taxes; so that this year's expences rose to ten millions.

The discontents which continued to rage in the nation, the universal cry against Hanover, and the furious spirit of political party, which seemed now to push things beyond their usual extreme, instilled a belief into the French ministry, that the people were ripe for revolt. Prince Charles, son to the chevalier de St George, was invited from Rome to Paris, where he arrived in the habit of a Spanish courier. The papists and jacobites in Great-Britain, acquainted the court at Versailles, that if the pretender was seen at the head of the French army in England, a revolution would instantly follow. The French king saw his advantage in giving a king to Great-Britain; in restoring a family allied by blood to all the greatest princes in Europe, or at least if this design should miscarry, he knew that by embroiling England he should carry his point in Germany, and he knew that England was the sole support of the house of Austria; therefore if he once found her work
enough

enough at home, the other could do nothing by herself.

Twenty ships of the line were immediately equipped and sailed from Brest, and 15,000 land forces were put on board, under the command of count Saxe, and the prince pretender; at Dunkirk they were ordered to take on board 7000 more. In January 1744, they appeared in the English channel; but a sudden and a violent storm arising, they were drove on the French coast, and the fleet was so much damaged that the troops were obliged to be re-embarked. As soon as this fleet appeared in the channel, Sir John Norris with a superior squadron sailed to attack them, but he permitted them to escape. When the king informed the parliament of these transactions, they presented very loyal addresses, and their example was followed from different parts of England. The British resident at Paris required that the young pretender should leave the French dominions; but he received no satisfactory answer: on the 20th of March, the French court declared war against England, and the British minister was ordered to leave the kingdom. On the 31st of March, war was declared in London against France. A few days after the king informed the parliament of the reciprocal declarations, and both houses again presented warm addresses; they passed a bill, after a sharp dispute, for making it high treason to correspond with any of the pretender's sons. On the 12th of May, the session was closed, and the king told them the French had made vast preparations on the side of the Netherlands, but that the Dutch had agreed to furnish the troops stipulated by treaty.

In the beginning of May, the French king appeared in Flanders, at the head of 100,000 men, assisted by marshal Noailles, and count Saxe. The allies composed of British and Hanoverians, commanded by marshal Wade; of Austrians commanded by

by count d'Arenberg, and the Dutch under count Maurice of Nassau, amounted to 76,000, ill commanded, and distracted by divisions. The enemy took the towns of Caentrey, Menin, Ypres, Furnes, and Mont-Capil, and the French king entered Dunkirk in a triumphal manner, while the allies looked in a state of shameful inactivity without spirit to check the enemy's progress, or intelligence to penetrate into their designs: they were for some time in excellent condition, and were reinforced by four British regiments, and eleven Dutch battalions, yet they did nothing except astonishing all Europe by their insensibility of shame. Prince Charles of Lorrain, at the head of the grand Austrian army, having passed the Rhine, entered Alsace, and made a diversion in favour of the allies: the French king was obliged to leave Flanders with 40,000 men, in order to oppose prince Charles. The allies had several favourable opportunities of compelling marshal Saxe, who now commanded the French army in Flanders, to fight at a great disadvantage: had they been fired with the least spirit, they might have taken Lille, but they neglected to make use of any advantage which fortune put in their way; forage at length growing scarce, they went into winter quarters about the middle of October; and thus closed as dishonourable a campaign to themselves, as it was glorious to the enemy. When the French appeared in Alsace, prince Charles evacuated it, and repassed the Rhine.

The unfortunate emperor supplicated the king of Great-Britain to intercede for peace; he promised that as soon as he was re-established in his hereditary dominions, and recognised as emperor by the queen of Hungary, to renounce the alliance of France, and throw himself into the arms of the maritime powers. The queen was too obstinate to part with any of her conquests, and besides her view was to expel the emperor, and elect her consort; and Great Britain re-
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jected this fair opportunity of concluding to honour and advantage, a bloody, expensive, and foreign war. The distressed situation of the emperor excited the passions of pity and revenge in several princes, who determined to resent the insolence of the house of Austria, which had been long famed for pride, tyranny, and ambition. The king of Prussia repaired to Franckfort, and there a treaty was concluded between the emperor, the king of Prussia, the landgrave of Hesse, and the elector Palatine; in order to restore the imperial dignity, and the tranquility of Germany. This treaty broke all the designs formed by the king of Great Britain and the queen of Hungary, against whom France declared war, because she was deaf to terms of accommodation. The king of Prussia immediately entered Bohemia, at the head of 84,000 men, and after a short siege, which neither cost him much trouble nor many men, he took Prague, though defended by 13,000 men, whom he made prisoners: another considerable body of Prussians entered Moravia, and laid great part of it under contribution. The queen retired into Hungary, where 44,000 men took up arms in her defence, who co-operated with the army of prince Charles, now augmented to 90,000 men, and obliged the king of Prussia to quit his conquest, as he had not been assisted by the French in the manner he expected. Finding himself worsted, he offered peace to the queen, but she rejected his proposals, declaring she had been forced into the treaty of Breslau, which was signed soon after her troops lost the battle of Czarlaw in 1742, and insisted on a right to break it. The French, army which had entered Germany in the absence of prince Charles, besieged and took Friburg the bulwark of Interior Austria, under the eye of their sovereign, and the emperor after having behaved with the greatest moderation, was at length restored to his hereditary dominions.

In Italy the French and Spaniards were almost as successful as they could wish, they gained several advantages over the king of Sardinia, and at length routed him near Coni. The Austrian army commanded by prince Lobkowitz made some attempts to recover this loss, but they proved unsuccessful: count Brown, another Austrian general, surprised Velletri in the pope's territories, while the king of Naples and the duke of Modena, were in the town fast asleep in their beds, who very narrowly escaped falling into his hands.

The British affairs in the Mediterranean, seemed to be drawing towards a crisis. The French and Spanish fleets, which had been a considerable time blocked up in the harbour of Toulon, at length came out, consisting of 28 ships of the line and six frigates, quite clean and completely manned. The British fleet was the same in number, but very foul and incomplete in several articles; it was divided into three divisions, the one was commanded by rear-admiral Rowley, the centre by admiral Matthews, and the rear by vice-admiral Lestock. On the 11th of February, when the fleets were so near as to begin to engage, Lestock with his whole division was five miles astern from the centre. Matthews observing the enemies to be making all the haste they could to get away, resolved to check their speed, and immediately with his division, which was all of a cluster, he attacked the Spanish admiral, and ordered admiral Rowley to attack the French; these commanders had the misfortune to be seconded only by a very few of their captains. The Marlborough commanded by the brave captain Cornwall, who was Matthews's second, was reduced to a wreck by the number of her adversaries, and her captain was slain. Matthews attempted to burn the Spanish admiral's ship, by a fireship which he sent down for that purpose, but this vessel was obliged to proceed on this dangerous er-
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rand, uncovered through the obstinancy of some commanders, who were afterward broke, and at length blew up, with her captain and part of the crew on board, without doing any damage to the Spaniards. Captain Hawke in the Berwick took a French ship called the Poder, but she was afterwards burned. Night coming on the action ceased, and the enemies fleet sailed away for the coast of Spain. During the whole day, Lestock kept aloop under the punctillios of discipline, for when Matthews hoisted the signal to engage, he kept abroad that for the line of battle, which Lestock by attempting to obey, pretended he could not get into the action; but the truth is, an animosity had broke out between them, and Lestock, at the expence of his country's interest, gratified his passion of revenge, in seeing his colleague severely suffer by the enemy's superior force. After the engagement the divisions united, and pursued the enemy till the 14th day of the month, but when they came within sight of them, Matthews ordered the chace to be discontinued; and soon after he suspended Lestock, and sent him home in disgrace; where in his turn he accused his accuser. Matthews coming home, a court martial was appointed to try them, and several captains who had misbehaved were broke. Lestock was honourably acquitted and reinstated in the service, Matthews was broke, and narrowly escaped being shot for cowardice and desertion. This decision is the astonishment of the present age, and will be the puzzle of the future.

About the middle of June Commodore Anson, in his single ship, the Centurion, returned to Portsmouth, richly laden with treasure from his expedition round the world; he had destroyed the Spanish town of Païta in Peru, and taken an Acapulco ship after a smart engagement. Sir John Balchen was ordered to put to sea with a squadron to attack the French fleet which had lately sailed from Brest, but his ship, the
Victory

Victory, esteemed one of the most beautiful first rates in the world, foundered near the Isle of Alderney, and all her crew, consisting of 1100 choice men, perished. Marshal Belleisle, attended by his brother and some others, who had been sent by the French king to concert the operations of the next campaign with the emperor, were stoped at a place called Elbengrode, in Hanover, and conducted to England, where they were confined in Windsor Castle. The earl of Holderneffe, ambassador to the state of Venice, was stoped near Nuremburg in Franconia by the Imperialists, but was afterwards released with satisfaction.

In England the management of the war produced great discontents among the people. The duke of Newcastle, and his brother, took umbrage at the influence and power of lord Cateret; they entered into an alliance with the leading members in the opposition against the minister, who, knowing their power in parliament, avoided the storm by making a voluntary resignation of his employments. Lord Harrington was made secretary of state, the duke of Bedford first lord of the admiralty, and the earl of Chesterfield lord lieutenant of Ireland. The session of parliament was opened in November, when there appeared such a spirit of unanimity among the members as had not been known during the whole reign; every body was intent upon the war. The supplies, amounting to near six millions and a half, were granted; the session was closed on the 2d. of May 1745, and the king set out for Hanover.

In the month of January 1745, the emperor Charles VII. died; which put all the princes of Germany in commotion. The king of Great Britain, the queen of Hungary, the king of Poland, and the states of Holland, all entered into a treaty of alliance, and mutual guaranty of each others dominions; but the king of Poland was paid for his concurrence with

an annual subsidy of 150,000*l.* two thirds from England, and the remainder from Holland. In March, the young duke of Cumberland was sent over to Germany to command the British forces there*. The king of Poland was invited to succeed to the Imperial dignity, but he refused: there were some thoughts of elevating the king of Prussia to it, but they vanished. Peace was again proposed to the queen of Hungary, but she refused their terms. She however accommodated matters, with the young elector of Bavaria, and recognized the title of his late father. Her consort the grand duke of Tuscany, repaired with an army to Frankfort, where he was declared king of the Romans, and elected emperor of Germany.

In Flanders the French army was commanded by marshal Saxe, and the French king and the Dauphin came to his camp. They laid siege to the strong town of Tournay, which was defended by 8000 men, and the allies by attempting to relieve it, brought on the battle of Fontenoy. Early on the first of May, the action began; the English Infantry commanded by the duke of Cumberland, drove the French from their lines, and repulsed them to their camp with great slaughter, where they were exposed on every part to a dreadful fire; but the Dutch under prince Waldeck, forbearing to attack the village of Fontenoy, and they having no cavalry to cover their flanks, the duke of Cumberland ordered a retreat, which was effected in tolerable order; about 12,000 of the allies were slain, and it is thought about as many French. The allies retreated to Aeth, but Tournay did not surrender till the 21st of June. Had the English and Hanoverians in the battle been properly sustained and assisted, there was the greatest probability of their gaining the victory and saving Tournay.

* About this time died the earl of Orford.

may. The conquerors took Ghent, Bruges, Oudenards, Dendermond, Ostend, Nieuport, Aeth, and other towns, after which the French king returned to Paris, and made a public entry into that city. The allies were inactive while these conquests were made.

The king of Prussia on his side opened the campaign in January, when his general Lehwald entered Silesia, defeated a body of 12,000 Austrians, and took the town of Ratibor by assault. In May he entered it himself with 70,000 men: prince Charles of Lorraine, who had been joined by 20,000 Saxons, also entered it to check his progress.

On the 4th of June, in the plains of Strigau near Friedburgh they met, and an obstinate battle ensued, which was maintained with great vigour from morning till noon; when the Saxons giving way, the Austrian army quitted the field with the loss of 12,000 men. Both armies soon after entered Bohemia, the king of Prussia encamped at Sohr, where the Austrians attempted to surprize him at day break on the last day of September; but the Prussians were prepared for them, and after a contest of four hours, they retired with the loss of 5000 men, though some of their irregulars found means to pillage the king's camp, carry off his military chest, the officers of his chancery, and his own secretary, with all the papers of his cabinet. After this action the king of Prussia retired to Berlin, but in a short time he returned to Saxony, where he seized upon Dresden, and other principal cities; defeated the Saxons, and laid their Electorate under contribution. The king of Poland out of compassion for the sufferings of his hereditary dominions, as soon as possible concluded a peace at Dresden with the invader; and another was also signed between Austria and Prussia; both under the mediation of the king of Great-Britain, with whom

whom the king of Prussia had concluded a convention some time before.

In Italy the French and Spaniards were again victorious, they engaged the Genoese in their interest, and having joined all their forces, they entered the king of Sardinia's dominions like a torrent, subdued all the towns before them, stripped him of all his territories, and even threatened to besiege Turin, his capital. At this time proposals of a separate accommodation were made to him, but he rejected them, and continued firm to his former engagements. Admiral Rowley who commanded the British fleet in the Mediterranean, detached commodore Cowper to bombard Genoa, Final, and St. Remo in Italy, and Bastia in the island of Corsica.

Among the British naval transactions, the most important was the taking of Louisbourg. The plan had been formed at Boston in New England, and afterwards recommended to the king, who approved of the design, and ordered commodore Warren, stationed at that time off the Leeward Islands, to repair to New-England and co-operate with the forces of that country in an expedition. Six thousand provincials were assembled under the command of Mr. Pepperel, a trader of Piscatauncury, and a man of great influence, but entirely unacquainted with military operations. In April the troops were embarked and re-inforced by 800 marines. They landed on the island of Cape Breton, without opposition, on the last day of April; and immediately formed the siege of Louisbourg, which was defended by 1200 men. After a siege of 49 days the place surrendered, to the great honour of both the officers and men; the loss on both sides was trifling.

We shall next proceed to give an account of a transaction the most material in the whole reign, that is the rebellion, which broke out in this year. Though the French fleet intended to invade England

land, was last year dispersed by a storm, yet the prince pretender conceived great hopes from his design. He thought that his appearance in the dominions of his ancestors, would almost of itself bring about a revolution; but it must be observed that he had been cajoled by those who were too sanguine well-wishers to his fathers house, who misrepresented to him the state of affairs in England, by swelling them to monstrous exaggerations in his favour *. The French ministry, only from a motive of embarrassing the British government, and kindling a flame in the bowels of the kingdom, that they might the more effectually push on their designs elsewhere, supplied him with a sum of money, and lent

* Impartiality obliges us to declare that the — did not at this time so firmly enjoy the affections of his people, as when he began his reign. His visible protection of Sir Robert Walpole, first created a disgust among the people: his fondness for Hanover, his frequent journeys to it, the plunging of Great-Britain into the mysterious, causeless, and expensive quarrels of a parcel of petty princes on the continent, merely to shield a puny electorate, the whole revenues of which are not equal to the income of some British subjects, and the enormous taxes continually levied to support these extraneous burdens, did, we must confess, work great discontents in almost every part of the nation. The Scots at this time were peculiarly irritated by a transaction of less moment. Some time ago a regiment had been raised in their country, upon a promise that they should not be sent abroad: But contrary to that stipulation, they were sent to Germany: however, before they embarked a number of them deserted; they were pursued and over-taken, and brought pinioned to London. Three of the principal, who happened to be men of note among the Highlands, were shot, and the rest were transported to America. The clans of Scotland resented their fate as a national outrage, they were stimulated to revenge, and were keen and eager for an insurrection; and perhaps from this incident the pretender was encouraged by his friends, to land in Scotland; and though there was no longer a fleet to support his measures, the opportunity, which now offered, was extremely favourable; king George was gone to Hanover, Scotland was without troops, and the Highlanders were ready to join him.

lent him a small frigate, and promised him a reinforcement of arms. He embarked at port St. Lazara in Brittany, on the 14th day of July, attended by the marquiss of Tullibardine, Sir Thomas Sheridan, and a few other Irish and Scottish adventurers. For a short time this frigate was convoyed by the Elizabeth, a French man of war, but the meeting with the Lion an English ship, a desperate engagement ensued, by which, before they parted, they were both so shattered as to be unfit to keep the sea. The frigate however pursued her course to the western isles of Scotland, and Charles landed on the coast of Lochaber, where in a short time he was joined by great numbers.

When the news of this descent arrived in England, the government treated it as a chimera, but being soon convinced of their mistake, they sent to Germany for the king. Sir John Cope, who commanded the British troops in the North, was ordered to attack the pretender, who by this time had assembled 3000 men at Perth, proclaimed his father, published manifestoes, commenced hostilities, disarmed two companies of the king's troops, and in terrorem, struck the whole kingdom with consternation. The government offered 30,000l. for his head; they called over six British regiments from the continent, and the whole kingdom began to make the utmost preparations to repel the designs of the invader. Charles, unmindful of the unanimity which appeared in England against his cause, still flattered himself that his appearance in the bowels of the kingdom, would alter the opinions of the people. When he began his march for Edinburgh, his army at best was but like a rabble almost in nakedness, and destitute of proper arms, yet did this bold adventurer at the age of twenty-five, take possession of the capital of Scotland, and prepare to besiege the castle, though a strong fortress, and defended by the brave
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and experienced general Gueft. Sir John Cope, who had been haftening after the rebel army, was now at Preston Pans, with about 3000 men. Charles's army, fince he had entered Edinburgh, was increafed to 4000, and with thefe he refolved to attack the king's troops, which he did in the morning of the 20th of September. In lefs than ten minutes his highlanders, with fword in hand, routed Sir John Cope, and drove his troops towards Berwick, with the lofs of every thing they had upon the field, and near 500 of them were flain, among whom was colonel Gardiner; but not 100 of the infurgents loft their lives. The victors returned in triumph to Edinburgh, and levied contributions. They, by this victory, got arms, a train of artillery, a great deal of baggage, and a confiderable fum of money in the royal military cheft: the influence of the pretender now became great, and he was in poffeffion of all Scotland, except the fortreffes. He likewife received affiftance in money and arms from France by fingle fhips, and was joined by the lords Kilmarnock, Elcho, Balmerino, Ogilvy, Pittligo, and lord Lovat's fon. The duke of Argyle, the earl of Sutherland, the lord Rae, and many other gentlemen of Scotland, and the north of England, raifed men and armed their vaffals for the fervice of king George.

When the news of Sir John Cope's defeat arrived in England, the kingdom was effectually alarmed. Six thoufand Dutch troops were immediately fent for, three battalions of guards, and feven regiments of infantry, were brought over from Flanders, and all marched to Newcastle, under the command of general Wade. In October the parliament met, and prefented loyal addreffes to the king, fignifying their zealous attachment to his perfon and government. Soon after, the Duke of Cumberland came over from Flanders, followed by another detachment of dragoons and infantry. The feveral regiments in Eng-

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land were compleated as fast as possible. The trained-bands in London were ready, and volunteers all over the kingdom were employed in the exercise of arms. The government were apprehensive of a visit from France on the southern coast; therefore admiral Vernon was appointed to watch the enemy's ports of Dunkirk and Boulogne; he took several vessels laden with soldiers and ammunition destined for the assistance of the pretender, and it must be allowed, that Vernon's indefatigable vigilance on this occasion, deserves the highest commendation; for if the enemy really had a design of favouring the cause of the pretender by a descent on England, he certainly prevented them.

In the mean time, the pretender, at the head of between 5 and 6000 men marched to Carlisle, and besieged it: in three days the place surrendered, and he found in it a considerable quantity of arms. General Wade marched across the country to relieve Carlisle, but hearing it was reduced, he returned to Newcastle. Notwithstanding the country at this time was covered with snow, the pretender determined to enter England, and by a rapid march he reached Manchester in Lancashire on the 28th of November, where his arrival was celebrated with public rejoicings, and his party joined by many inhabitants of the towns through which he passed. He then advanced through Cheshire into Derbyshire, and entered the town of Derby on the 4th of December, within 100 miles of London. The whole kingdom was filled with terror and confusion; his sudden and expeditious march was the astonishment of every body. A camp was formed on Finchley Common, where the king himself took the field, accompanied by the brave old earl of Stair, now called again into the service to prevent the young adventurer entering the capital, which was filled with consternation, and where his friends were numerous. The duke of Cumber-

Cumberland took the command of a corps of the king's troops assembled near Litchfield, but the rebels gained a march between them and London. Wade, in Yorkshire, was not over vigilant; he seemed to linger; though it must be allowed the roads in this winter season were almost impassable. The rebel chiefs at Derby called a council, in which violent disputes arose; some were for advancing directly to the capital, others for going into Wales, which was indeed most feasible, but the majority determined to go back to Scotland. Accordingly on the 6th of December they abandoned Derby, and retreated through Lancashire with great speed. The duke of Cumberland immediately began a pursuit; some skirmishes happened between the van and rear guards but nothing material. The rebels continued their retreat, and reached Carlisle on the 19th of December. Thus began and ended the pretender's expedition into England; in which it must be confessed his army did not commit those irregularities and ravages which might have been expected from such a banditti; and upon the whole, we cannot help looking on this enterprize as the most desperate attempt which the family of the Stuarts ever made to regain the crown since the abdication of James the second*.

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* The supplies granted by parliament for the ensuing year considerably exceeded seven millions. But before this enormous sum was granted, there were several disputes in the cabinet. The earl of Granville, late lord Carteret, made an effort to regain his influence, and by the favour of the k—— he carried his point. The d—— of N—— and his brother took umbrage at his rise to power: they strengthened their party; but some of these auxiliaries were disagreeable to the king, and were accordingly rejected: failing in this, the whole party resigned their employments, and the earl of Granville became secretary of state; but finding he had not strength enough to withstand the weight of his opponents, nor even to gain the supplies from parliament; and besides, being fearful of their power and influence, he prudently resigned in three days. The k—— then acquiesced in the measures of the brothers, and rein-

The rebel army after reinforcing the garrison of Carlisle, entered Scotland. The duke of Cumberland invested Carlisle on the 21st of December, but Hamilton, the governor, did not surrender till the 30th. The garrison were imprisoned in different gaols, and the duke returned to London.

In 1746 the pretender retired to Dumfries, and levied there and at Glasgow heavy contributions. He was joined by lord Lewis Gordon who had raised a corps for his service, and by lord John Drummond, who was lately arrived from France with a corps of French and Irish. They were also joined by the earl of Cromartie, and a small train of artillery; and their whole force amounted to near 8000 men. Several places were taken, some troops raised for the service of the king defeated, and the castle of Stirling was invested, though but slovenly. A new army of 10,000 men was assembled in Scotland to oppose the progress of the rebels, and the command of it given to general Hawley, who was held in but very indifferent esteem. He relieved Stirling, which was defended by general Blakeney, and encamped near Falkirk, where on the 17th of February the two armies came to an action. The rebels had taken possession of an eminence from which they repulsed the king's troops as they advanced to the charge, who had moreover the disadvantage of a high wind and heavy rain in their faces. They had only given one irregular fire when they were seized with a panic and fled. Some few under general Huske made a brave stand, which favoured the retreat of the rest to Falkirk. The field of battle was left to the rebels, who found upon it the artillery and tents of the fugitives. The loss among the king's troops was considerable, but the govern-

stated their party in their respective employments. William Pitt, Esq; who was originally designed for the army, was at this time appointed vice-treasurer of Ireland, and soon after pay-master-general of the forces, and a privy counsellor.

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ment never told the exact number ; they pretended not three hundred, but the conquerors lost two hundred. After this victory the rebels took Fort Augustus. On the other hand it was judged expedient to put the royal army under the command of the duke of Cumberland, as he was the darling of the soldiery, and the king's son. The Dutch troops being at this time recalled, 6000 Hessians were brought over in their stead, commanded by the prince of Hesse, son-in-law to the king. The rebel army proceeded northward, and were followed by the royal army : they undertook the siege of Fort William, but the Hessians obliged them to abandon it ; however they beat up the earl of Loudon's quarters and took some prisoners. The duke of Cumberland, who had advanced to Aberdeen, left that place at the beginning of April, and passed the Spey in sight of part of the rebel army, who were so stupid as to permit him to do it without opposition. The pretender was at this time at Inverness, but soon after, he proceeded to Culloden. The duke resolved to give him battle because the French continued to make preparations at Dunkirk and Boulogne for a descent on England. Accordingly early on the 16th he advanced to Culloden, where the rebels, to the number of 8000 men, and some pieces of artillery, were drawn up in order of battle. The royal army exceeded that number. About noon the cannonade began, which on the part of the rebels did very little execution. To make amends for this defect, part of their right wing charged sword in hand ; but by superior force were repulsed with great slaughter : their flank became next exposed to an unexpected attack which threw them into confusion, and they fled on all sides. Bland's and Barrel's regiments in the king's army, behaved with great bravery. In half an hour the pretender's forces were totally routed, and upwards of 3000 of them were slain. The earl of Kilmarnock was taken prisoner, and some ladies ; but the
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pretender fled, and was afterwards exposed to incredible hardships, hunger and fatigue. The lords Balmerino and Cromartie were afterwards taken, and it must be owned that many horrid ravages and barbarities were committed by the royal troops; they massacred in cold blood great numbers; they sullied the glory of the victory by the most unheard of cruelties: the rebellion was extinguished by a wanton scene of carnage, in which the innocent and guilty were slain undistinguished. A few days after lord Balmerino was taken, and he with the lords Kilmarnock and Cromartie were conveyed to the Tower of London, to which also a brother to the earl of Dunmore, the marquis of Tullibardine, and Murray the pretender's secretary, were sent. The other prisoners of less note were confined in different gaols in Great Britain, but some who were put on board vessels to be conveyed from Scotland to England were suffocated in the holds for want of air. The pretender wandered about a forlorn fugitive for the space of four months; during which he underwent the most severe hardships both of body and mind, and narrow escapes from his pursuers, as perhaps no one person ever outlived. At length a privateer from St. Maloes took him away on the 17th of September in wretched apparel. In England the people were transported with joy at the news of this victory, and extolled the duke of Cumberland as a hero and deliverer, and the parliament with their thanks added 25,000 l. per annum to his former revenue.

The royal army, after the victory of Culloden, proceeded into the north, and reduced all the places. Detachments were sent off on every side, and they butchered, plundered, burned and destroyed every man and beast, hut and house: even the women were violated, and afterwards either assassinated or turned out with their children to starve on the barren
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ren heaths. In a word, the most shocking barbarities and ravages were committed that ever disgraced humanity, or ever Englishmen before were guilty of; even through the rude ages of former times we don't remember to have read of such cruel murders, rapine, and destruction by fire. In a little time, for the space of fifty miles, nothing was to be seen but silence, ruin and desolation.

The government resolving to make examples of those rebels whom they had secured, executed a great number of them in different parts of the kingdom, and transported the rest to America, except a few who obtained pardons. The lord Balmerino and the earls of Kilmarnock and Cromartie were tried by their peers in Westminster hall; the two last pleaded guilty, and the former was found so: however Cromartie was spared, and Balmerino and Kilmarnock were in August beheaded on Tower hill. Mr. Ratcliff, the titular earl of Derwentwater, was tried for being concerned in the rebellion in the year 1715; the identity of his person being proved he was beheaded in December following. And in 1747 lord Lovat, who was upwards of eighty years of age, was taken and tried for treasonable practices in the present rebellion. Murray, the pretender's secretary, and some of his own domestics were evidences against him. He also suffered decapitation at the same place.

The affairs in Flanders wore a bad aspect for the allies. The Dutch, during the winter, had solicited the king of Great Britain to augment the allied army, that it might be superior to the enemy, in order to check their progress; but however willing he might be to comply with their request, he could not; the rebellion in his kingdom, and dissensions in his cabinet so embarrassed him, that he found it impossible. The allies for a while were commanded by M. Bathiani, an Austrian general. The French were commanded by their king and marshal Saxe, who invest-
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ed Antwerp, and took it in a few days ; and with a prodigious train of artillery he reduced the strong towns of Mons, St. Guislain and Charleroi, and by the middle of July the French king was master of Flanders, Brabant, and Hainault. Prince Charles of Lorraine by this time had taken the command of the allies, who were now reinforced by the Hessians from Scotland, and judging the enemy would next attack the strong and important town of Namur, he took post for its defence, but marshal Saxe took his measures so well that he not only deprived prince Charles of his principal magazines, but also of getting any subsistence in his present situation ; therefore he was obliged to retreat and abandon Namur to the fury of the enemy. This fortress was taken after a siege of twenty one days ; during which, the garrison, consisting of 7000 Austrians, sustained so terrible a cannonade and bombardment, as converted the whole place into a heap of rubbish. Prince Charles, during this siege, intended to attack the enemy, but he found them too advantageously posted : he was joined by Sir John Ligonier with some British and Bavarian battalions. Marshal Saxe was also reinforced by a corps under count de Clermont ; and after the reduction of Namur he determined to bring the allies to an engagement ; but they retreated over the Jaar, and took possession of the villages of Liers, Wareem and Roucoux. He also passed the Jaar, and on the first of October advanced to give them battle. The villages, defended principally by the English, were at length carried by the French troops, after a very obstinate and bloody dispute, in which the allies lost at least 5000 men and their artillery ; they retreated over the Maese, and the campaign ended.

As the Austrians were no longer attacked by the French in Germany, they were the better enabled to drive them out of Italy ; and the king of Sardinia, by the help of his British subsidy, acted with great spirit
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against the French and Spaniards, who were obliged to abandon Piedmont and Milan, and retreat with precipitation. The Piedmontese troops retook several places, and relieved others which had been blocked up by the enemy during the winter. The Spanish and French effected a junction, and, finding their army amounted to 52,000 men, they resolved to attack the Austrian intrenchments near Placentia. With this view they marched with great silence and expedition, and, entering the trenches, a desperate battle ensued, in which the Austrians had by far the worse part, till, quitting their trenches, they, in their turn, attacked the enemy with great fury, and, after killing near 6000 of them, and throwing them into utter confusion, obliged them to fly to Placentia. The king of Sardinia joined the Austrians, and, marching after the fugitives, attacked them again at Rotto Freddo, and, after an obstinate engagement, obliged them to retire towards Genoa, leaving almost 5000 men killed on the field of battle. He then took Placentia, in which there was a garrison of 9000 men. The enemy, upon hearing this news, retreated into Provence in France, and the Austrians obliged Genoa to surrender, and deliver up their arms as well as money. General Botta was left in it with 16000 men, while general Brown, another Austrian general, entered Provence in pursuit of the enemy. He was assisted on this occasion by the British squadron in the Mediterranean under admiral Medley. An army of French troops under marshal Belleisle, which had been intended to oppose his progress, retreated before him: he passed the Var, and invested Antibes, while Medley bombarded it; but Belleisle, having assembled a superior army, obliged him to raise the siege, and repass the Var with loss. The Genoese, in the mean time, were so exasperated at the cruel treatment of the Austrians, that they resolved to recover their liberty or perish in the at-

tempt; they seized arms in secret, and, securing some parts of the city, attacked the Austrians with great fury, surrounded some, and cut them to pieces. Botta acted with caution and spirit, but he was drove out of the city with great slaughter.

The naval transactions this year were trifling, and almost contemptuous. In the East Indies, where the British company had been extremely negligent, commodore Peyton declined fighting a French squadron of inferior force: he abandoned the coast of Coromandel, while the French took Madras. The British government, after the reduction of Louisbourg, formed a design of attacking Quebec, the capital of Canada; but the fleet, which was to set sail from England on this expedition, was delayed by some unaccountable means, till the season was over. As this design was rendered abortive, it was resolved to employ it in an attempt on the French coast. The land forces, amounting to 5800 men, were commanded by general Sinclair, and the fleet was under the direction of admiral Lestock. Sinclair landed near L'Orient, and laid siege to that city, but in so awkward a manner, that he was obliged to abandon it, at the repeated solicitations of admiral Lestock. In the West Indies commodore Mitchel, after a scandalous fight, permitted a French squadron to return to Europe, for which he was broke. The merchants loudly complained of their commerce being badly protected.

In the month of July the king of Spain died, and was succeeded by his son Ferdinand, who, the allies apprehended was well affected to Great Britain, and extremely desirous of peace. The States General, who had not yet declared war against France, begged for peace at the court of Versailles by several remonstrances, and at length the French shewed an inclination to hold a congress, which was opened at Breda;

Breda ; but their demands were so insolent, that it was soon broke up.

The parliament met in November. The supplies, which exceeded nine millions, were granted. The king told them, that the funds appropriated for the support of his civil government, had for some years past fallen short of the revenue granted by parliament, and he relied on them to make good this deficiency. The parliament was dissolved, though the term of seven years, since its first meeting, was not expired *.

During the winter the duke of Cumberland went over to the Hague to concert with the Dutch the operations of the campaign for 1747. The Dutch agreed to act vigorously, finding that all their remonstrances to the French king had failed. In February the allies took the field, amounting in the whole to 120,000 men, under the command of his royal highness: they lay inactive six weeks exposed

* This dissolution is accounted for two ways. The ministry insinuated, that the Dutch, and other allies, were unwilling to act vigorously against France, while this parliament existed, because it had undergone a change in its complexion. The country party declared, the allies had no reason to be suspicious of a parliament which had granted them such liberal supplies: and as the parliament must soon be dismissed by law, the intention of the ministry was no other, than to surprise the kingdom with a new election, before there were any preparations made for an opposition. Certain it is, none of the allies had cause to be disgusted with the British parliament; for this nation now numbered among its mercenaries, two empresses, one king, and five German princes, all hired to trim the balance of Europe, in which they had all a primary concern, and England, at most, but a secondary one. The supplies this year exceeded, by two millions and a half, the greatest annual sum that was raised during the reign of queen Anne; and the British arms at this time were despised by her enemies, and her councils ridiculed throughout Europe. She engaged in blundering negotiations, and rashly entered into foreign quarrels: by this conduct she became fantastical, pusillanimous, and vain, which occasioned the war on her part to be spiritless, ruinous, and dishonourable.

to the severity of the weather, and almost destitute of provision and forage: this created a sickness and mortality among them, by which they were considerably weakened. The French troops continued in their winter quarters till April, when marshal Saxe declared, that he would convince the duke of Cumberland, that the first care of a prudent general is to provide for the health and preservation of his troops. The French began their operations with taking the towns of Sluys, Sas-van-Ghent, and Hulst, which so frightened the Dutch, that they imagined the French were at their very doors. The conquerors shewed a design of pushing forward, by preparing to invade Zealand; but this scheme was frustrated by a British squadron destined to act for their preservation. The Dutch now came to a resolution of electing the prince of Orange stadtholder, and commencing hostilities. Mean while the duke of Cumberland took post in order to cover Bergen-op-zoom, and marshal Saxe threatened to besiege Maestricht, which the allies being apprized of, hastened to its relief, and this brought on the battle of Laffelt, or Val, which was fought on the 21st of June. The village of Laffelt was attacked by the French with astonishing intrepidity, and as bravely defended by the allies; it was three times lost and won with prodigious slaughter, but at length the French infantry possessed it by superior numbers; their cavalry was next brought to action, and the Dutch horse immediately fled off the field, and overthrew the rear of the allies; marshal Saxe, in the midst of this confusion, made so vigorous a charge with his cavalry, that he separated the allied army in the centre. The disposition of the allies was such, that the Austrians could not act, and the defeat was now expected every moment to become total, when Sir John Ligonier took a resolution of sacrificing himself, and a part of the troops to the safety of the army; he, with three regiments of
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British dragoons, and some squadrons of Imperial horse, attacked the whole line of the enemies cavalry with such incredible impetuosity as to overthrow all that opposed him, while the duke of Cumberland effected a tolerable retreat to Maestricht: some of his troops got safe to that town, but he himself was taken by a French carbineer. The allies lost at least 6000 men; though Ligonier's bravery enabled them to carry off the principal part of their cannon*. However they resolved to cover Maestricht, and, with that view, they crossed the Maese. But Saxe's design was not to attack this fortress, though he amused the allies that way; he detached, on a sudden, count Lowendahl, with 36,000 men, to besiege Bergen-op-zoom, the favourite work of the famous Coehorn, and supposed to be an impregnable fortification. The governor, old baron Cronstrom, was summoned on the 12th of July, and the prince of Saxe-Hilburghausen entered the lines of the town with twenty battalions, and fourteen squadrons for its relief. The attention of all Europe was fixed on this important siege, which was carried on with surprising alacrity, and the place as bravely defended. From the 16th day of July to the 15th day of September the fire was the hottest that ever was known; nothing was to be seen but fire, smoke, and slain, nothing heard but the unintermitting roar of bombs and cannon. The French lost an incredible number of men, but Saxe continued to send reinforcements.

* The cause of the confederates has been shrewdly suspected to have suffered through the ignorance and pride of the commanders. On the eve of the battle marshal Bathiani, the Austrian general, desired leave to attack one of the enemies advanced posts, declaring he would answer for the success of the enterprize; but the commander asked him where he should be in case he was wanted, "I shall always be at the head of my troops" replied Bathiani, and retired in disgust. As to the disposition, it is certain all the allies could not act; but the whole of the French force was exerted.

Cronstrom believed the place impregnable, by which he was lulled into a false security. He has been accused of treacherously giving up the town, of being indolent, &c. but all these are untrue; the case was different: Lowendahl was informed the day before he made the assault, that there were two spies from the town in his trenches, he went directly to where they were, and swore aloud, that the two breaches which had just been made, would not be practicable these eight and forty hours, and affected to be in a great passion with the engineers; then he gave private orders, that the spies should not be molested. They returned to Cronstrom, and told him what had happened. Lowendahl resolved to attack the town that night; and though messages were repeatedly brought to the governor of the enemies advancing, he believed it to be all a feint, relying on the intelligence of his spies; or it is certain he might have prevented the French from entering the town so soon as they did, which was at four o'clock in the morning, on the 16th of September. The garrison were surprised, the governor was asleep, but they did not cease to defend the town from street to street, and a prodigious slaughter was every where made, till at length, overpowered by numbers, they retreated to the lines, from which the whole army fled in the utmost precipitation. The French and allies now went into winter quarters.

In Italy the French were not so successful. The Austrians laid siege to Genoa, but were obliged to raise it. Marshal Belleisle, at the head of a fine French army, entered Italy, and his brother the count de Belleisle attempted to enter Piedmont by the pass of Exiles; but the Piedmontese had thrown up intrenchments to dispute his passage; he attacked them, but had the mortification to miscarry, and in making another effort he was killed, by which his army was dispirited and fled. When the marshal was informed

formed of his brother's misfortune he retreated, and the campaign ended without any other material event happening.

The naval transactions this year were more glorious to Great Britain, than those heretofore. The French equipped two squadrons, one destined to retake the British conquests in America, and the other for Asia. The British ministry having advice of their intentions, directed the admirals Anson and Warren to put to sea, and intercept their fleets, and they had the good fortune to fall in with the enemy, consisting of five ships of the line, ten frigates, and thirty merchantmen under convoy. Warren advised the attack with such wisdom and good regulation, that all the ships of war were taken, though the convoy escaped, which he could not prevent. It appeared from the prisoners that they were shortly to have separated in order to execute the designs before mentioned, and that they had some treasure on board. The brave captain Grenville of the *Defiance* was killed. Mr. Anson was made a lord, though the victory was principally owing to Mr Warren, who received the honour of the Bath. About this time the government having received intelligence that the French American fleet, amounting to near two hundred and fifty sail, were on their voyage home, they sent admiral Hawke with a fleet from Plymouth to intercept them: he espied them off cape Finisterre, and after a long and obstinate fight, in which the French behaved with uncommon bravery, he took six ships of war.

The parliament met on the 10th of November, and granted a sum exceeding eight millions for the service of the following year: they prohibited the insurance of French ships, and trafficking in any part of the French dominions. The session ended in May, 1748, and the king embarked to visit his German dominions.

At the beginning of the year 1748, all the belligerents seemed heartily tired of the war. The conferences to treat on peace were opened at Aix-la-Chapelle. The preparations for carrying on the war were extraordinary; the allies hired a large body of Russians to assist them in driving the French out of the Netherlands; but the French laid siege to Maestricht, and after carrying on their operations for eighteen days in a furious manner, the place surrendered; however the garrison obtained the honours of war. By this time the preliminaries for peace were signed, a cessation of arms ensued, and the Russians, after they had marched seven hundred miles, were ordered to return to their own country*.

Admiral Knowles in America made some attempts on St. Jago de Cuba, but he failed. He then attacked Port Louis in Hispaniola and took it. He cruized for the Spanish plate-fleet, and had the good fortune to fall in with it, but after an attack of a whole day, the enemy got off, without permitting any of their ships to fall into the hands of the English, for which Knowles and his officers charged each

* Great Britain had reason to be dissatisfied with the conduct of her allies: their numerous armies, which she paid, lay for the most part inactive, while they beheld the conquests of the enemy. They were cowardly in the day of battle, and suffered themselves to be defeated, when there was the fairest prospect of their gaining the victory. But why a cessation of arms should at this time be agreed upon, is matter of astonishment; when their affairs began to put on a more favourable countenance, and the Russian auxiliaries would have given the superiority in the field: it was the misfortune of the allies, that their ministers negotiated as their generals fought. If France had not lately suffered in her marine, it is a doubt, in the opinions of many intelligent persons, whether she would have consented to a peace, till she had further pursued her advantages in the Netherlands. The distresses of her commerce were in a great measure productive of a famine, which at this time overspread the face of the whole country, and reduced the people in many principal towns to great difficulties for provisions.

other with misconduct, and were inflamed with the most rancorous animosity. A court-martial was held, at which Knowles, with two of his captains were censured. Afterwards captain Powlet had a bloodless encounter with him; but capt. Innes and capt. Clarke, meeting by appointment in Hyde-Park, the former was killed. Last year admiral Boscawen was sent to the East Indies, and this year he had so far retrieved the British affairs there, as to be able to undertake the siege of Pondicherry, the French capital; but notwithstanding all his vigilance and bravery, he was obliged to raise the siege, by a sickness among his troops, and the great rains of the monsoon season.

By this time the ministers at Aix-la-Chapelle, after some warm disputes, signed the treaty of peace. The contracting powers, the kings of Great Britain, France, Spain and Sardinia, her Imperial majesty, the Dutch, Genoese and Modeneze, agreed that the prisoners on all sides should be released without ransom, and all conquests restored. The duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla, to be ceded as a settlement to the infant don Philip, and his male heirs; but in case of his becoming king of Spain, or of the two Sicilies, those duchies should then revert to the house of Austria. The king of Great Britain was to restore Cape Breton, and all his other conquests in the East or West-Indies, and two persons of distinction were to be sent to France as hostages, until those articles were fulfilled. All the contracting powers were guarantees to the king of Prussia for Silesia and Glatz, as he then possessed them, and likewise to her imperial majesty for her hereditary dominions, according to the pragmatic sanction. Such was the substance of this famous treaty, which occasioned great disgust in England. The sending the nobles of the realm to grace an enemy's court for suspected faith, was a disgrace few
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could brook with. The restitution of Louisbourg was loudly complained against by almost every individual ; but a general dissatisfaction arose among the more sensible part of mankind, on perceiving that this definitive treaty left the right of British subjects to navigate in the American seas, without search, unmentioned. This had been the original source of all the differences between Great-Britain and Spain ; and it was strange that the first object of the war should be thus forgot. The limits of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, and other British colonies in America, were also left unsettled ; but they were referred to the decision of commissaries. The mystery is unriddled when we recollect that as soon as the troubles in the empire broke out, the war was no longer conducted on British principles : and this accounts for the vast blood and treasure which were expended during the course of this war, and for the public debts, which at this time amounted to eighty millions !

Though Great Britain secured to herself no advantage by this treaty, yet Holland was delivered from the brink of a French invasion, and France had a golden opportunity for recruiting her maritime strength. Count Maurepas, the minister of the French marine, had sometime ago produced a plan for making the navy of France more formidable than those of England and Holland united, and for stripping the English of all their possessions in America and Asia. He was greatly inclined for peace, in order to put his favourite plan in execution, and it is believed, that the arguments which he made use of, influenced the French king to conclude it sooner than he otherwise would have done. As soon as peace was signed, orders were immediately given for building men of war in every port in France. At the same time a number of artificers, who had been impolitically discharged from their employments under

der the government in England, hearing of the encouragement offered in France, went over to the enemy, and were of seasonable assistance to Maurepas. As it was intended to dispossess the English of their colonies in America, the Indians in that country were tampered with, and by several arts and allurements brought over to the interest of the French; nay, so flagrant were they in these acts of debauchery, that three pounds sterling were offered by the governor of Canada, for every British scalp that should be brought in by a Canadian.

By the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, it was stipulated that the pretender should not reside in the French dominions; and the French king gave him notice of it; but the prince not minding this warning, he was seized by some troops, and sent out of the kingdom under a guard. It was not till this time that king George saw himself firmly and immoveably seated on the throne; for while the pretender remained in the French dominions, it was the same as cherishing that youth, and opening a door for another rebellion. For this purpose it was stipulated, by the quadruple alliance, made in 1718, ‘ That neither the pretender, ‘ nor any of his descendants, should be allowed to ‘ reside within the territories belonging to any of the ‘ subscribing parties.’ And this article was inserted in the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle; whereby it plainly appeared, that his cause was now abandoned by all the states of Christendom. This compliment, which seemed to be paid to the king of Great-Britain, was an excellent mask of the christian monarch’s intentions. He had formed a design of seizing the island of Tobago, one of the neutral islands in the West-Indies, and had actually began to put it in execution, when it happened to be detected, though it was complaisantly disowned at Versailles.

The British ministry formed a scheme for making a settlement in Nova Scotia, and it was peculiarly espoused, with uncommon warmth, by the earl of Halifax, who presided at the board of trade, and, in compliment to his indefatigable and patriot services on this occasion, the new town, founded by governor Cornwallis on the colony, was called Halifax, and is now the finest harbour in North America. This scheme gave great uneasiness to the French, as this country was the first territory which they intended to seize, according to the plan of Maurepas, by which it was considered as a necessary appendage to Louisbourg. They remonstrated against this proceeding, declaring that the limits of Acadia had not been adjusted; that they should be referred to commissaries, and in the mean time nothing further be done.

Before the parliament met, a breach happened in the royal family. It was suspected the prince of Wales had been deprived of certain rights belonging to him, in the county of Cornwall, and he held a court of stannery, or what is called a parliament, in order to revive these claims; which had they been admitted, would greatly have augmented his interest in the Cornish boroughs. This transaction roused the jealousy of the administration, by which, for a series of years, these boroughs had been considered as depending on the crown. The pretensions of his royal highness were therefore opposed by the whole weight of the ministry. His servants now joined the remnant of the opposition, and they were headed by the earl of Egmont, Dr. Lee, and Mr. Nugent, who were men of elocution and abilities, but not equal to those who had shone in the late opposition. They numbered among their adherents, lord Bolingbroke, who resided at Battersea, and he was suspected to be the secret counsellor of all their actions; for he was visited like a fainted shrine, and frequent consultations were

were held at his house. The ministerial power was at this time managed by Mr. Pelham; he was assisted by Mr. Murray, solicitor-general, Mr. Pitt, paymaster general, and other gentlemen, who were too powerful for the opposition, as well in abilities as numbers. Upon the whole, we cannot help observing, that though there was a great deal of acrimony vented on both sides, yet when we divest them of this declamation, we shall find no material cause for disagreement. In parliament violent disputes arose: the supplies amounted to very near eight millions, which excited great disgust among the people without doors. A bill passed, after much altercation, which subjected all half-pay officers to the martial law, in the same manner as if they were on whole pay. A new mutiny-bill was introduced and passed. Both these bills, several sensible members apprehended were encroachments on the liberty of the English constitution, and tending to augment the influence of the crown. A bill was brought in for limiting the term of a soldier's service: had this taken place, there would in a few years have been such a rotation of soldiers among the common people, that every peasant would have understood the exercise of arms, and a standing army have become unnecessary; a project not at all agreeable to the administration, for obvious reasons, therefore it was postponed from time to time, and at length disappeared. The African trade being in a declining state, a bill was brought in for extending and improving this valuable branch of commerce, but it was dropt for the present. This was also the fate of a resolution for opening the Hudson's-bay trade. Nothing else material happened, and the session ended on the 13th of June.

England at this time was infested by foreigners, and French linens were in great fashion; but the prince of Wales forbid all his servants wearing any of them, and he was particularly industrious in encouraging

couraging all manufactures of a British production, by which he deservedly gained great popularity. A riot happened at Oxford, where the pretender's health was drank by one or two intoxicated students, for which the whole university was maliciously stigmatized as Jacobites, and their address of congratulation to the king on the peace was rejected with disdain. Other tumults happened in different parts of the kingdom, particularly at Litchfield races, where some persons of rank were insulted as apostates, and at Bristol, where the turnpikes were pulled down.

The courts of France and Sweden were at this time very closely connected, at which the empress of Russia pretended to take umbrage, though her real design was no other than to add the province of Finland to her empire, and she actually ordered a body of troops to march towards it; but the king of Prussia stepping into the breach with his standing army, declared he would attack any power that offered to molest the government of Sweden with which he was allied, and this produced an accommodation between the parties; but the Czarina never forgave the king of Prussia for intermeddling, by which her ambition was disappointed. He, at this time, was also meditating on the proper means of establishing an Asiatic company at Embden.

On the 16th of November the parliament was opened, when Sir John Hinde Cotton made an unsuccessful motion, that in their address to the king, the words, *no search*, should be inserted, which he founded on a vote formerly passed in the house, implying, that there should be no peace while any part of the West Indies remained in the possession of the Spaniards. The interest on the national debt was reduced in the following manner; the creditors to receive four per cent. for one year, three and a half per cent. for seven years, and three per cent. ever after. A bill passed for the encouragement of the British herring fishery,

fishery, of which the prince of Wales was governor. Another for the encouragement of the growth of silk in America, and for the regulating the African trade. The election of members for Westminster occasioned much disturbance. The candidates were lord Trentham and Sir George Vandeput; the latter, vigorously supported by the prince of Wales, and the former by the court, who, after a severe scrutiny, carried their point, and the house obliged Mr. Crowle, one of Sir George's council, to ask pardon on his knees, for committing some illegal practices during the election, but Mr. Murray, brother to lord Elibank, who refused to do the same, was committed to Newgate, from which, as soon as the session was over, he was conducted by the sheriffs of London, with flags and streamers, amidst the acclamations of the people. This affair revived the old and idle ministerial clamour, that a man could not be attached to the heir apparent, and censure the administration without being disaffected to the king. The session closed on the 12th of April, and the king proceeded directly to Hanover.

Two small shocks of an earthquake were felt in London, at the beginning of the months of February and March, 1750, which terribly alarmed the inhabitants, and a third was erroneously predicted by a life-guard man, which frightened them still more. In May an infectious distemper broke out in Newgate, which, by the prisoners, was brought into the sessions room at the Old Bailey, and proved fatal to two judges, the lord mayor, and many others.

The differences with Spain were compromised by a treaty signed in October, by which the south sea company obtained 100,000*l.* by way of indemnification for their claims on the Spanish crown; but nothing was mentioned concerning the searching of British ships on the high seas, though, as we have observed, this was the original source of all the differences. The
king's

king's view in going abroad was to get the arch-duke Joseph, son to the emperor, elected king of the Romans: large subsidies were offered to the electors of Cologne, Mentz and Saxony, and one actually granted to the elector of Bavaria, amounting to 40,000 l. per ann. who promised his vote, and 6000 men, to act as affairs required.

When the British house of parliament met they exclaimed against this treaty, as well as that with Spain, and found great fault with both, but nothing material was done; the supplies exceeded five millions in this time of public tranquillity.

On the 20th of March 1751, Frederic prince of Wales died in the 45th year of his age, of a pleuritic disorder, in consequence of a cold which he had caught in the gardens at Kew. This event overwhelmed the kingdom with grief and consternation. He had been the patron of all polite arts, the constant friend of merit, and the general promoter of commerce. He was benevolent, generous, liberal, candid, and humane. He understood the constitution of Great Britain, was warmly attached to its interest, and sincerely disposed to assert the rights of mankind. In his private character he was a virtuous and affectionate husband, a fond parent, and a kind master *.
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* Though he had a large family, and kept a splendid court, yet his œconomy was surprising, and the private debt, which he left behind him, was found to be less than it was in general imagined. A few days before his death he embraced his eldest son with great tenderness, and uttered this remarkable expression, "Come, George, let us be good friends, while we are suffered to be so." He owned himself to be an admirer of that maxim, which says, 'a monarch's glory is inseparably connected with the happiness of his people.' This sentiment, which is truly consistent with the genius of the British nation, could not fail of gaining him the warm affection of almost every individual. His conduct, generosity, and virtue endeared him to the people; they had long seen a great number of measures taken, which were in-
fringments

Immediately after his death a regency was appointed, consisting of the princess dowager, in case the crown

fringments on their pr——; the extensive influence of the c——, the flagrant acts of corruption among the servants of the c——, the many obstacles industriously thrown into the way of every scheme offered to vindicate the independency of p——s, were like so many attacks on the bulwarks of the constitution; and they saw, that their liberties could never be so firmly established, as by the power and influence of a patriot king. But what will render his royal highness's memory dear to British posterity, is a strong testimony, which he gave of his patriotic intentions in the following declaration, which he caused to be made to the principal gentlemen in the opposition.

“ His royal highness has authorised lord T. and Sir F. D. to give the most positive assurances to the gentlemen in the opposition, of his upright intentions: that he is thoroughly convinced of the distresses and calamities that have befallen, and every day are more likely to befall this country; and therefore invites all well-wishers to this country, and its constitution, to coalition and unite with him, and upon the following principles only.

His royal highness promises, and will declare it openly, that it is his intention to totally abolish any distinctions, for the future, of parties; and as far as lies in his power, and as soon as it does lie in his power, to take away for ever, all proscription from any set of men whatever, who are friends to the constitution; and therefore will promote for the present, and when it is in his power will immediately grant,

First, A bill to empower all gentlemen to act as justices of peace, paying land-tax for 300 l. per ann. in any county where he intends to serve.

Secondly, His royal highness promises, in like manner, to support, and forthwith grant, whenever he shall have it in his power, a bill to create and establish a numerous and effectual militia throughout the kingdom.

Thirdly, his royal highness promises, in like manner, to promote and support, and likewise grant, when it is in his power, a bill to exclude all military officers in the land service, under the degree of colonels of regiments, and in the sea-service, under the degree of rear-admirals, from sitting in the house of commons.

Fourthly, his royal highness promises that he will, when in his power, grant inquiries into the great numbers of abuses in offices, and does not doubt of the assistance of all honest men, to enable him to correct the same for the future.

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Fifthly,

crown should devolve on any of her sons, a minor, under eighteen years of age. The parliament also allowed

Fifthly, his royal highness promises, and will openly declare, that he will make no agreement with, or join in the support of any administration whatever, without previously obtaining the above-mentioned points in behalf of the people, and for the sake of good government. Upon these conditions, and these conditions only, his royal highness thinks he has a right not to doubt of having a most cordial support, from all those good men, who mean their country and this constitution well, and that they will become his, and his family's friends, and unite with him to promote the good government of this country; and that they will follow him, upon these principles, both in court, and out of court; and if he should live to form an administration, it shall be composed, without distinction, of men of dignity, knowledge, and probity. His royal highness farther promises, to accept of no more, if offered to him, than 800,000 l. for his civil list, by way of rent charge.

Answer to the proposal.

The lords and gentlemen to whom a paper has been communicated, containing his royal highness the prince's gracious intentions, upon several weighty and important points, of the greatest consequence to the honour and interest of his majesty's government, and absolutely necessary for the restoring, and perpetuating the true use and design of parliament; the purity of our excellent constitution, and the happiness and welfare of the whole nation, do, therein, with the greatest satisfaction observe, and most gratefully acknowledge, the uprightness and generosity of his royal highness's noble sentiments and resolutions. And therefore beg leave to return their most dutiful and humble thanks for the same, and to assure his royal highness that they would constantly and steadily use their utmost endeavours to support those his wise and salutary purposes, that the throne may be strengthened, religion and morality encouraged, faction and corruption destroyed, the purity and essence of parliament restored, and the happiness and welfare of our constitution preserved.

When this answer was returned to the prince, there were present,

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| The duke of B. | Sir Wat. Wil. W. |
| The earl of L. | Sir John H. C. |
| The earl of T. | Sir Walter B. |
| The earl of W. | Sir Robert G. |
| The earl of S. | Mr. F. |
| Lord F. | Mr. P. |
| Lord W. | Mr. C. |

allowed a council of regency, of which the duke of Cumberland was one, after a sharp contest. The reader is to observe, that his royal highness was at this time extremely popular, and at the head of the army. In the course of the debate the history of England was ransacked, to shew instances of royal uncles and regents having injured their sovereigns, and distressed the government by their pride, cruelty, and ambition. The characters of John Lackland, and John of Ghent, Humphrey and Richard dukes of Gloucester, were particularly pointed out with applications*. The earl of Macclesfield promoted, and at length effected a bill for the alteration of the style. On the 25th of June the session was closed.

The design of electing the archduke Joseph king of the Romans, was revived in Germany. The electors of Saxony and Palatine were procured to vote in his favour at a great expence, the principal part of which was paid by England, though, in reality, she had no business with the affair; but the kings of Prussia and France opposed this measure; nay, the former openly declared she was an officious cabal, and had no right to intermeddle with the affairs of Germany.

In order to decide the disputed claims of the English and French to different parts of North America, commissaries met at Paris. The French by false maps, and other arts of delusion, endeavoured to misrepresent the situation of the countries. They pro-

* A few months before the prince of Wales died, a printed paper appeared, intitled, "Constitutional queries, earnestly recommended to the serious consideration of every true Briton," insinuating, that the power which a royal personage had in the army was incompatible with the safety of his elder brother, and his family. The house of commons deemed it a libel, and ordered it to be burned: in the month of January a reward was offered for discovering the author, but he was never positively known, though supposed to be a member of note.

duced spurious facts in support of their claims, urged many artful objections to those of the English, and in fine, spun out the conferences by cavilling and chicanery. They would have confined the limits of Acadia, or Nova Scotia, within the compass of a small isthmus, which in fact did not contain much more than half the lawful territory. They built forts on each side of the neck of the isthmus, in order to prevent the English from extending their settlements, and some acts of hostility were committed by the French troops, and neutrals, who destroyed the little town of Dartmouth near Halifax; but they were at length driven out of that neighbourhood by major Lawrence. The court of Versailles did not at this time think proper to countenance these open breaches of their public faith; and orders were sent to desist for the future; yet the English permitted them to keep possession of their forts, though the building of them were flagrant acts of depredation.

About the middle of November the parliament met, and were pretty unanimous; the government purchased the charter of the African company, and that trade was appointed to be carried on by a committee of merchants of London, Bristol, and Liverpool. The supplies did not reach four millions. The trustees of Georgia finding themselves unable to support that colony, surrendered it to the king. The only debate was on a motion to address the king, not to enter into any subsidiary treaties with foreign princes, which are so burthensom to this nation; it was defended and opposed by the best orators in both houses, but at length was dropt without a division. On the 26th of March the session closed, and soon after the king set out for Hanover.

This year was distinguished by the death of Henry St. John, lord viscount Bolingbroke. He was naturally inconstant, and loose in his principles, but had the most engaging manners. He was the best political

political writer that ever appeared in England ; when he attacked Sir Robert Walpole, as he often did, he turned him into the strongest ridicule, and exposed, in the most glaring light, the despicable abilities of that minister's understrappers ; his connections gave him the best intelligence of the transactions and interests of all the courts in Europe, and his very eminent abilities were extolled to the world by Mr. Pope, and other fine writers, who were considered to be at the head of polite literature. The spirit of the opposition was greatly damped by the death of the prince of Wales, and this nobleman. There now appeared among the great very few to cherish arts, learning or taste, which had very few patrons from this time to the conclusion of the reign, except some of the remains of the prince's friends ; for as to the m——, and the other engrossers of the r—— favour, they were dead to every spark of that public spirit and virtue, which so greatly adorns a nation in the encouragement and protection of literature and science.

A dispute broke out between the electors of Hanover and Brandenburg, concerning the principality or East-Friesland, to which both parties laid claim ; but the elector of Brandenburg being in possession, refused to submit the dispute to any umpire. He, at this time, charged the British ministry with having seized several of his trading vessels, and in return he stopped the payment of the Silesian loan ; but his objections on this point, were all refuted, and he thought proper to continue the payment of the loan. The election of a king of the Romans was still a favourite object of his Britannic majesty and the empress queen, but it met with a number of obstacles : the king of Prussia was thought to aspire at the imperial dignity himself, and the whole design proved abortive.

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Some murmurings also broke out in the princess dowager's court, particularly among those to whom the education of the prince had been committed, and soon after the king's arrival from Hanover, which was on the 18th of November, the earl of Harcourt, who had been appointed governor to his royal highness, and the bishop of Norwich, who was his preceptor, both resigned their places, upon which the former vacancy was supplied by the earl of Waldgrave, and the latter by the bishop of Lincoln.

The parliament met on the 11th of January, 1753, when the earl of E——, and other sensible members, made great objection to those words in the address, which complimented his majesty on his wisdom in conducting foreign affairs: they spoke with great vivacity against continental connections, and endeavoured to expose the weakness and folly of the whole system of foreign measures; but the address was carried without such amendment. After that, a much sharper and more distinguished contest happened on a bill which was supported and passed by the courtiers, for naturalizing the Jews, though the city of London petitioned against it, and there was the greatest probability, that under this indulgence, the kingdom would be deluged with brokers and usurers, who might purchase lands, and acquire an interest in the legislature, to the endangering the constitution and the church. The next subject of debate was an act, which also passed into a law, to prevent clandestine marriages; the contents of which are well known, and universally allowed to be worthy of its framers. The minister strongly promoted the bill, but the members were in general divided, according to their real sentiments, and not as usual by a political distinction. The objections were, that it would damp the spirit of love and propagation; prejudice posterity and population, by promoting mercenary matches, which would ruin domestic happiness,

piners, and also be the means of engrossing the property of the kingdom among the rich and great; that it would encourage a lawless commerce between the sexes, and greatly lessen the number of marriages, and finally subject the poor to many inconveniences and extraordinary expence, besides throwing an additional power into the hands of the chancellor. Certain it is a great number of clandestine matches had been made in the fleet, and other places, to the scandal of the nation and society: but after all, this act may be eluded by a trip to Scotland, which has often been done since it passed. A Bill passed for purchasing by lottery the musæum of Sir Hans Sloane, with the Harleian collection, and Cottonian library, which were all deposited in Montague-House, and are subjected to view, under certain restrictions, and exhibit the most illustrious monument of national taste and liberality. The public debt at this time amounted to 74,368,451 l. and the supplies to 2,132,707 l. The session closed on the 7th of June.

On the continent the affairs of East-Friesland continued still to be a matter of dispute. With regard to the British affairs we must observe, that the conferences, which had some time since been opened at Paris, concerning the limits of Nova Scotia, now broke up. The French commissaries did nothing but cavil, and endeavour to elude our pretensions by other arts of procrastination, till they had gained time to prepare, and commence open hostilities with a prospect of success.

In the mean time some wandering dealers, belonging to the British colonies in North America, who had travelled over the Allegeny mountains, discovered a fine, healthy, and fruitful country, with many navigable rivers, the principal of which was called the Ohio. It was judged, as we were the first settlers on this coast, that we had a right to the inland country, and in this opinion,

on, a company of traders obtained a charter for a large tract of this land, encouraged by the advantages arising from an Indian trade. Now began to shoot forth the seeds of another dispute, which had hitherto lain unobserved: this was concerning the right to the river Ohio. The French pretended to have been the first discoverers of the Mississippi, and therefore claimed the whole adjacent country, east and west: thus the right of the Indians, who were the lawful inheritors, was considered as nothing. But to understand the nature of this difference, we are to observe, that the French had no communication with Canada, but by a long and dangerous passage up the river St. Lawrence, which is open but half the year; and Canada extending a great way into the continent, becomes contiguous to several fine lakes, which border on the back of the British settlements, by which we traded with the Indians; therefore they conceived an opinion, that if they could unite Canada with Louisiana, another colony which borders on the Mississippi, and open a free communication between them, by means of the lakes and rivers, which are conveniently situated for that purpose; they should have, from the mouths of the Mississippi, as easy and direct an intercourse with Europe, as the English. To execute this design, they seized on the whole territory which lies between these two colonies, and began to erect forts, in order to secure this illegal capture. These forts were so situated, as to form a curve line, and hem in all the British settlements, by being on their backs, serving at the same time to exclude them from all communication with the Indians; and this scheme was further improved, by a project to invade different parts of the British colonies, which was actually put in execution; and by continuing to increase their power till they were formidable enough, there is no doubt but they intended to extirpate the English from the whole coast. This design

design which had been at least half a century in agitation, was not discovered by the English till this time, when the enemy drove off the new settlers, and commenced hostilities against the province of Virginia.

On the 15th of November, the parliament met; when after providing for the exigencies of the state, which exceeded 2,797,916l. A motion was made in both houses for repealing the Jew bill; which was complied with, and the whole act of naturalization was repealed. Every corner of the kingdom had resounded with reproach against the ministry for enforcing this act; and it was shrewdly suspected that the two brothers in the administration, trembled at the prospect of those consequences, which this clamour might occasion at the general election, as this was the last session of the present parliament. So eager were the ministers to repeal this unpopular act, that it was little less than diverting, to observe the hurry and precipitation with which they went about it. Nothing else material was done, and the parliament was dissolved at the beginning of April 1754.

In the beginning of March 1754, died Mr. Pelham, the minister: however, before his death, he had laid down the measures for securing a majority at the ensuing election of a new parliament, and his plan was faithfully followed by his friends and adherents, who still engrossed great part of the administration: notwithstanding it was resolved to keep matters in the same channel as Mr. Pelham intended them, yet some how a few persons were taken into the administration, who belonged to a party which was far from being agreeable to the remains of the old ministry; and here lay the foundation for all that clamour and dispute which broke out two years after. It was generally thought that the leading man of this party, intended to work out the old servants of the crown, in order to make way for a more uniform system; but

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the reader will be enabled to judge more clearly by perusing the domestic disputes of the three following years. The changes were, the duke of Newcastle first lord of the treasury, Sir Thomas Robinson secretary of state, Mr. Legge chancellor of the exchequer, Mr. George Grenville treasurer of the navy, and Mr. Charles Townshend a commissioner of the board of admiralty.

A warm dispute on the almost forgotten subjects of privilege and prerogative broke out at the beginning of the year, between the government and the Irish house of commons, whether the latter had a right to apply the surplus of their revenue towards national purposes, without acknowledging the consent of their sovereign. They had in the year 1749, a balance in their hands of 205,000*l.* which had been saved in their treasury, part of which the attorney-general, who acts as chancellor of the exchequer, moved should be applied towards the discharge of the national debt: accordingly a bill was brought in, but in the preamble * there was no mention made of “ his majesty’s previous consent,” which it had been customary to do in passing the Irish money bills. The friends of the prerogative in England, took great offence at this method of appropriating the money; they affirmed that the Irish house of commons had no right to apply any part of the unappropriated revenue, without gaining and acknowledging the previous consent of the crown, in the most explicit terms. In the session of parliament held in the year 1751, the

* The preamble ran in these words, “ Whereas on the 25th of March last, a considerable balance remained in the hands of the vice-treasurer, or receiver-general, of the kingdom, or their deputy or deputies, unapplied; and it will be for your majesty’s service, and for the ease of your faithful subjects in this kingdom, that so much thereof as can be conveniently spared, should be paid agreeable to your majesty’s most gracious intentions, in discharge of part of the national debt.”

the duke of Dorset, who was lord lieutenant, told the house, that his majesty had graciously consented and recommended it to them, that such part of the money then remaining in his treasury, as should be thought consistent with the public service, be applied towards the further reduction of the national debt. The commons, who were zealous for the preservation of their privileges, were greatly alarmed at this declaration; and in their address of thanks, which, like the British parliament, is generally the echo of the speech, made no mention of his majesty's consent. They proposed a bill for applying 120,000*l.* of the surplus towards discharging the national debt; but in the preamble made no mention of his majesty's consent. As the Irish acts are revised by the English government, before they pass into law, the words, "by his majesty's previous consent," were added at the council board in London, where this purposed omission gave great offence, and where it was construed into a wilful encroachment on the prerogative: with this amendment the bill was sent back to Ireland, and the house of commons being at this time deeply engaged in an enquiry into the conduct of a servant of the crown and member of their house, they allowed the bill to pass with the alteration, that they might not be interrupted *. In 1754, the duke of Dorset, when he opened the session, repeated the expression of his majesty's gracious consent, in mentioning the surplus of the public money; but the commons in their address omitted that word; and seemed resolved to sink it as odious; for in their bill of application they omitted the expression of grate-

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* This gentleman was accused of having misapplied a large sum of the public money, which he had been entrusted with, for rebuilding or repairing the barracks; and being at length convicted of this fact, he was ordered to make the barracks fit for the reception of the troops at his own expence.

ful acknowledgement, which was abating in their compliance, in return for the cold reception they had met with. The contest had by this time kindled up two violent factions, and a spirit of resentment seemed to have diffused itself throughout the whole Irish nation. The committee who prepared this last bill, avoided the usual compliments in the preamble, and only inserted a plain recital of facts, in which naked manner they sent it over to England. But the ministry, who were determined to vindicate the prerogative, filled up the omissions of the committee, and decorated it out in this manner; “ And your majesty, ever attentive to the ease and happiness of your faithful subjects, has been graciously pleased to signify, that you would consent and recommend it to us, that so much of the money remaining in your majesty’s treasury as should be necessary, be applied to the discharge of the national debt, or such part thereof as shall be thought expedient by parliament.” When the bill was returned to Ireland, with this alteration, a letter was written to the lord lieutenant, and signed by eighteen British counsellors, intimating that the king could not dispense without such alteration. The crisis was now come for determining this important constitutional point, “ Whether the people in parliament assembled have a right to deliberate upon, and vote the application of any part of the unappropriated revenue without the previous consent of the crown?” All who were zealously attached to the liberties of their country, exerted themselves strenuously in opposing the bill with its alterations, and even the servants of the crown, who were natives of the Irish nation, joined in the opposition, and at length the bill was rejected by a majority of 122, against 117. This success was celebrated with the most extravagant public rejoicings, and considered as a triumph of patriotism over the arts of m—— corruption : Mr. Boyle, the speaker, was little less than

than deified for his opposition to the lord-lieutenant; whilst the servants of the crown, who had voted against the bill, were dismissed from their employments; the public creditors were greatly disappointed, as the bill for paying them was rejected; the circulation of cash was almost stagnated; both these calamities were imputed to the arbitrary designs of the government. The people were inflamed with the most enthusiastic spirit of independency; and now the most mischievous effects were dreaded, had not means been found to divert the storm of popular clamour, from the government to some of those persons who were idols of public veneration; the speaker was created an earl, and many other patriots were gratified with lucrative employments; and the whole seemed to resemble the famous scene, which was acted in England, at the beginning of the year 1742. At this time the king's letter arrived, for paying off 75,500l. of the national debt; which circulated cash, and retrieved the affairs of Ireland to their former tranquility.

With regard to the affairs of America, nothing but an open rupture was expected from them. The British ambassador at Paris continued to make complaints against the French encroachments; but he only obtained evasive answers. The British government, who were at this time averse to a war, saw it was next to unavoidable, and, in this embarrassment, they seemed to be following the dictates of an unsteady and confused understanding. The general voice of the people was for war; the beginning of which is always extremely critical to a British ministry. Complaints were every month brought from America, which were no doubt swelled by some individuals with exaggerated accounts of the French designs. The province of Virginia was indeed alarmed, and its governor, Mr. Dinwiddie, applied for assistance to the provinces of Pennsylvania and New York, but they contemned the power of Canada, and made trifling excuses.

cuses. At length orders were dispatched from Great Britain, directing the governors of all the provinces to repel force by force: but it has been asserted, that they were clogged with this remarkable restriction, *be sure you do it on the undoubted territories belonging to the British crown.* Now the scene of action was in the territories disputed; thus the same letter gave, and took away from them, the power of defending themselves. The colonists however judged (though perhaps at the hazard of disobliging their superiors) that the territories disputed belonged to the British crown, by virtue of a prior discovery, and therefore made requisition; that the French troops should retire from the station they had chosen near the Ohio; but major Washington, who was deputed on this errand, received for answer, that those troops were placed there by the governor of Canada's orders, and without which they would not retire. The Virginians now began to arm, and march a body of troops towards the Ohio, under the command of major Washington, and to erect a fort on that river, in order to repel any intended irruption of the enemy. This measure, though a necessary one, was taken so late, that the French had the start of them: they surprized a place called Logg's town, made themselves masters of the block and truck-houses, and skins, and other commodities, to the value of 20,000*l.* This detachment of the enemy, which consisted of 1000 men, was commanded by M. Contrecoeur, who penetrated as far as the river Monongahella, on the forks of which he dislodged captain Trent, and found the traces and construction of a fort. Here he encamped and finished the fort to which he gave the name of Du Quesne, who was governor of Canada. This was deemed a valuable acquisition, as it commanded, by its excellent situation, the entrance into all the country on the Ohio and the Mississippi; therefore it was soon after made very strong. The French
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pretended this fort was built on their own territories, and declaimed against an encroachment of the English; who, on the contrary hand affirmed, that the proceedings of Contrecoeur were illegal, and insisted that the fort was on the British dominions. It is to the contention for this fort, that we must attribute the kindling up the flames of so general and destructive a war. On the first of May major Washington had a skirmish with a detachment of the enemy, which he defeated and made prisoners; but immediately after a numerous body, under the command of M. de Villiers, advanced to take revenge for this miscarriage. Washington knew nothing of the motions of the enemy till they were within two hours of the fort he had begun to erect: he resolved to defend the place, and accordingly took every precaution which his prudence could suggest; but the enemy attacking him with a vast superiority, compelled him to surrender the fort on the third of July. Had Washington been reinforced with the other colony troops in due time, he had not thus been obliged to surrender the fort. It was a misfortune to the cause, that the colonists were at this time distracted and divided among themselves by heats, jealousies and animosities *. It was observed, that among this body of the enemy there was a considerable number of the Indians known to have been long in the English alliance. A little while after, in consequence of the king's orders, a conference

* It may not be improper to remark, that these divisions were considerably augmented, and the minds of the provincials greatly inflamed, by the ministry in England being determined to support the prerogative in that country with a high hand. New York was filled with discontent, on account of some instructions sent to the governor inveighing against their loyalty, duty, &c. and violating the royal commission, in assuming to themselves the power of disposing of the public money. These instructions teemed with a multitude of peremptory injunctions not at all agreeable to the colonists.

was held with the chiefs of the Iroquois Indians at Albany, when it was found that they were wavering in their resolutions, had but little friendship for the English, and had been artfully corrupted by the French. The remainder of the year was spent in making repeated representations to the British ministry, on the dangerous situation of the colonies, and the absolute necessity of a powerful assistance from Great Britain.

No transaction marked the events of the continent, touching the interest of Great Britain. The hereditary prince of Hesse Cassel, who espoused the princess Mary of England, declared himself a Roman catholic, at the instigation of some powers, who flattered his ambition. The French attempted to inveigle Spain into a rupture with England, but all their machinations were frustrated by Mr. Wall, the Spanish minister, who was sincerely disposed to promote the English interest at Madrid.

On the 14th of November the session of parliament was opened. The supplies exceeded four millions. The only subject of debate was on the Oxfordshire election, from which four candidates had been returned: after a long dispute it was determined in favour of the court interest, which at this time predominated in parliament. Application was made to the house for a million of money to augment the land and sea forces, which was granted; and in April 1755, the session closed, when the king declared his intention to visit his German dominions.

The ministry, in consequence of the many solicitations from America, resolved to send thither fifteen hundred men, under the command of general Braddock. The French were at this time making great preparations for sending a fleet, and a large body of troops, to America; and the marquis de Mirepoix, the French minister at London, was ordered to amuse the British ministry with assurances,

assurances, that no hostility was intended, and he was so far imposed upon as to believe the professions of his court were sincere, till at length proof was given him to the contrary, with which he appeared astonished, and immediately repaired to Paris, where it is certain he upbraided the French ministers, for having made him the tool of their dissimulation; but they referred him to the king, who sent him back to London, with fresh assurances of his pacific intentions. The French fleet however set sail, and it was soon followed by a British squadron, both destined to America. Mirepoix at this time declared, that the first gun which should be fired in hostility, would kindle up a war through all Europe.

The measures taken were a proof of the wisdom of the administration. Braddock was perhaps the most unfit man in the kingdom to be sent to America; he was haughty, proud, positive, vain, and inaccessible. He knew how to review a battalion of guards in Hyde Park, and that was the extent of his discipline. As soon as he set foot in America he was despised, and the provincials, by a body of whom he was joined, were terrified at his severities in discipline. Three operations were at this time undertaken. Braddock was ordered to retake Fort du Quesne, and restore peace to the lands on the Ohio. General Shirley, the governor of New England, to proceed to the lakes Erie and Ontario, and colonel Monckton to reduce the French forts at the isthmus of Nova Scotia. When Braddock began his march, he had the general abhorrence of every one about him: some few, out of zeal for the cause, cautioned him against ambuscades and surprize; but he neglected their advice; disdained the irregulars, and Indians, who forsook him, and contemning all opinions but his own, frustrated the design of the expedition by his obstinacy and conceit. He advanced with 2200 men to where major Washington had been

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defeated

defeated the year before, and coming within ten miles of Fort du Quesne, he was surprized by an ambuscade of Indians, who made great havock among his troops without his being able to return the fire at any enemy he could see; the savages raising their dismal yells, struck the regulars with such a panic, that they fled off the field, but the officers stayed, and were slaughtered, and even Braddock lost his life. About half of the army reached Virginia, where their defeat struck a general consternation. A plan was formed for general Johnson to attack Crown Point, and in obedience to his instructions he advanced as far as lake George, where the French general, baron Dieskau, attempted to surprize his camp; but having no cannon, he was totally defeated, and himself made prisoner. As this victory did not happen till the month of September, it was thought the season was too far advanced to lay siege to Crown Point; therefore it was productive of no other advantage, than raising the spirits of the people, which had been depressed by the news of Braddock's miscarriage. As to general Shirley's expedition to the lakes, it was conducted in so dilatory a manner, that it did not reach the fort of Oswego till very late in the season; and then, after leaving 700 men in that place, it returned back again, without having even attempted any thing. The expedition under colonel Monckton, against the French forts in Nova Scotia, was the only successful one; he, with a few New Englanders, made himself master of all those forts in a very short time, and with very little loss. It was opposite to this country that hostilities were first committed on the ocean. We have already taken notice, that the French and British fleets directed their course to America; and were both very near the mouth of the river St. Lawrence at the same time, but were prevented seeing each other by the thick fogs: however, two French men of war, viz. the Alcide and the Lys,

Lys, fell in with part of the British squadron, and were taken by the captains Howe and Andrews. This action gave great spirits to the people at home, where the best advantage was made of it for the service of the ministry. It must be owned, that public spirit, which had flagged, was raised by this incident; but it was far from answering the expence of the expedition. When the news of this transaction reached Paris, M. de Mirepoix was recalled from the court of London, and M. de Bussy from that at Hanover, where the king resided. The French court loudly complained against the taking these two men of war; but they were answered, that it was only by way of retaliation for their encroachments. At this time orders were issued for annoying the French trade; and before the end of the year, 300 of their merchant ships, many of them from St. Domingo and Martinico, with near 8000 of their sailors, were brought into the British ports. They made all Europe resound with complaints against this proceeding, which they called a violation of the law of nations, and therefore forbore to make any sort of reprisals for several months after. This clamour and extraordinary shew of affected moderation was intended to influence the other courts in their behalf, till they were ready to act in Europe; they took the Blandford man of war, but from these motives released her.

Whatever may be thought of the abilities of king George, the public events of whose reign we are only attempting to recapitulate, it is certain he was perfectly skilled in all the recesses of that political labyrinth, which forms the system of Germany; he had been brought up to it his whole life, and was naturally a zealous assertor of its liberties; and this we shall undertake to prove so far as it comes within the sphere of our work. He had always a warm affection for his Hanoverian subjects, and it was his

love for them that drew him this year to the continent. The French had tampered with the court of Spain, but finding they could not gain their point there; they had recourse to the princes of Germany, and soon brought over the elector of Cologne to their interest: he also consented to their erecting magazines in his country, a step from which the British monarch immediately saw they designed to attack Hanover; but then it should be observed, that this attack was only founded on a strong supposition that England would defend it. King George lost not a moment's time, in providing for the security of his electoral dominions. In June he entered into a subsidiary treaty with the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, whereby that prince engaged to furnish 12000 men for four years, which were to be employed in case either Hanover or England should be attacked; but the defence of the former was more immediately its object. He also required, from the court of Vienna, the auxiliaries stipulated to him by treaty; but they were refused, upon pretence that the dispute between England and France concerned America only, and therefore it was not a case of the alliance.

It has been shrewdly suspected that this refusal was the vent of a woman's malice. The wound which the empress queen suffered last war by the loss of Silesia, had never been healed, and though this duchy was solemnly confirmed to the king of Prussia by two treaties, one made at Breslau, and the other at Dresden, yet they were compulsive; and that at Dresden was hardly concluded before she set practices on foot for recovering this valuable territory: she entered into a treaty with the court of Petersburg in 1746, which as far as it appeared to the public, was of an innocent and defensive nature; but in one of the secret articles, it was provided, that in case the king of Prussia should attack either powers, they should consider it as a breach of the treaty of Dresden, and

and the empress queen's right to Silesia should revive *. The king of Poland was invited to accede to this treaty, but he refused. The king of Great-Britain was often importuned to agree to this stipulation, but he always objected, and in return for this refusal, the empress queen denied him those auxiliaries which by treaty he had a right to demand. The French court perceiving this difference, immediately cajoled with the Austrian ministers, and promised the empress queen she might command all his power against the king of Prussia. The empress of Russia, to whom this proposal was made known by the court of Vienna, was no way averse to it. She ardently wished to see the power of Prussia humbled, in return for his frustrating a favourite measure of hers a few years ago. The whole of this negociation was carried on as secretly as possible, and very few of its particulars have transpired; and therefore from a judgment which may be put on the circumstances of affairs, we may safely venture to assert, that no formal advances were at this time made by any of the powers on the heads of a tripple alliance.

The British monarch before he left Germany, laid the foundation for a subsidiary treaty with Russia,
but

* The empress queen considered the cession of Silesia, during the late war, as a circumstance altogether compulsive, and therefore not binding according to the laws of equity; she knew the Prussian power was entirely military, and the disposition of the monarch dangerous; and these induced her to enter into a negociation with Russia in 1745, which in the year following produced a defensive treaty, made only against the king of Prussia, on a supposition that he was the aggressor, stipulating that they should share whatever countries they took from him, in repelling this aggression. Though the king of Poland did not formally accede to this treaty, there is no doubt but he secretly connived at the means which obtained it, from a hope or a promise that some consideration would fall to his share, to indemnify him for the damages committed by the king of Prussia, during his late irruption into Saxony, and the great sums which he paid at the following peace.

but it was not signed till the last day of September, at Kensington. The Russian princess agreed to furnish 55,000 men, and forty or fifty galleys, in case, as the fifth article said, his Britannic majesty's dominions in Germany, should be attacked on account of the disputes concerning his kingdoms, in consideration of his paying her 500,000*l.* per annum for four years. The seventh article contained these remarkable words, which were directly levelled as a menace against the king of Prussia, and added a considerable quantity of fuel to the flame already begun to be kindled up in the empire; "Considering the *proximity* of the countries, wherein the diversion in question will probably be made, and the facility her troops will probably have of subsisting *immediately* in an enemy's country. She takes upon herself alone, during such a diversion, the subsistence and treatment of the said troops by sea and land." And by the eleventh article it was stipulated, the Russian troops should have all the plunder they took from the enemy. The king of Prussia, by some means, in a short time procured a copy of this treaty, and in a moment guessing at the motives which set it on foot, he solemnly and boldly declared, he would oppose with his utmost force the march of all foreign troops into the empire *. France who was at this time

* The whole treaty was so manifest an attack on the king of Prussia, that he must have been blind not to have perceived it. Great Britain could not bring the Russian army into the field to attack the French. The Russian galleys could not be brought into the ocean to oppose the naval power of France. Then was not the whole provision intended against Prussia? Is it not evident king George was more afraid of the Prussians entering Hanover than the French?

Will posterity believe that we armed the nations of the north, that we bargained for troops in the polar circle, and that we were for bringing them down to the defence of a few dominions which our king had in Germany; dominions, which the natives of this island

time preparing to invade the electorate of Hanover, heard this declaration with astonishment. She sent to Berlin the duke de Nivernois, to persuade the king of Prussia to retract from his declaration: the manner in which this ambassador was received at Berlin, seemed to denote an intention in the king to agree to his proposals; no body knew whether the French and Prussians were not forming a design to enter Hanover together; but England was resolved to defend it, let who would attack it; though every body knew the French would never go thither, if they were not sure of meeting with the English. She was roused with jealousy at the king of Prussia's conduct; especially as at this time she did not stand on very good terms with him; she was now convinced that the Russians, who were to march through Poland, and make a diversion in order to find employment for the king of Prussia at home, would be ineffectual; for the French and Prussian armies, both of which were ready, might over-run the electorate before the Russians could come to its relief. Thus the only resource which Great-Britain had to defend Hanover, failed, and confirmed all Europe in opinion that England is not able to defend that distant country. She

island scarcely knew, till they called the present family to the throne, and even at this period knew little more than that the king went thither from time to time; that we paid vast subsidies to these troops, sent the riches of our nation into distant countries, and the strength, which should have been employed in our own quarrel, consequently impaired for the sake of dominions, the interest of which has no connexion with ours, and which by the act of settlement, we took care to separate from the British kingdoms? Will they not say to what end was this strength procured, which could not be exerted? Or could the empress of Russia by any of her assistance, repay us the sums we stipulated to pay for her costly friendship? The event proved she could not; and she afterwards joined the enemies of our allies. This policy will astonish after ages, if they know nothing of the secret history of these times.

She had now nothing to do but give up her old allies, renounce her treaty with Russia, and buy off an evil which she could not repel. This produced the treaty with Prussia.

King George again required of the court of Vienna the number of troops stipulated to him by treaty; but they were still refused on the former pretence. The king of Great Britain then required that she would defend her own possessions, the barrier in the Netherlands, with the number of men specified by treaty, which countries had been acquired by the blood and treasure of the English nation, and given to her on that express condition; this she also refused to do, alledging that she could not spare troops on account of her dangerous enemy the king of Prussia; who as he kept a standing army, and being an ambitious, as well as an enterprizing monarch, must be strictly observed*.

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* The affairs of Ireland went on this year extremely regular: lord Hartington was chosen lord lieutenant, and deemed the most fit person that could have been fixed upon: his judgment was strong and sound, his behaviour and address so engaging, that he managed parties with ease, without being warped to any; he had a becoming dignity, which added lustre to his exalted station, and the humanity, disinterestedness, and candour of an honest man: with such abilities we may readily suppose that he was the most proper person to allay the heats of a divided people, and he did it so effectually among all ranks, by the wise measures and excellent public laws, which he encouraged and passed, that in a little time they were in much better temper, than even before the late differences broke out. The house of commons granted 10,000l. for making the river Nore, navigable from Kilkenny to Innessalge; 20,000l. towards carrying on an inland navigation from Dublin to the river Shannon; 4000l. for making the river Newry navigable; 2000l. for the encouragement of English protestant schools; several sums to be distributed in premiums for the encouragement of the cambrick, hempen, and flaxen manufactures; and 300,000l. to the king, towards supporting the several branches of the establishment, and for defraying the expences of the government for two years.

When the treaties which had been concluded with Russia and Hesse-Cassel, were made public in England, they were received in a very disagreeable manner, they were considered as acts of the most contemptible folly and flagrant c——, as violations of the great trust of g——, whereby the wealth of Great-Britain, was to be sacrificed to private views, and to a particular province ; in a word, this new continental system was inveighed against by the people, and strong opposition was preparing to be made to it in parliament ; even some of the ministry who were at the head of the finances, refused to answer the first draught for money, which came over from Russia, till the treaty had been approved by parliament, because it could not be called value received, the Russian troops having not yet done any sort of service, neither did they apprehend it was consistent with the act of settlement.

The session was opened in November, when it appeared that there were a strange jumble of parties in both houses, as well as in the ministry. The king ordered the two late treaties to be laid before them ; Mr. Pitt, and his adherents, declared against this new continental system ; Mr. Legge, chancellor of the Exchequer, and lord of the treasury, declared upon the same cause, and was therefore succeeded in his employments by Sir George Littleton. The honourable Charles Townshend, one of the lords of the Admiralty, and many others of superior rank appeared on the same side of the question, in justice to their country. Sir Thomas Robinson, who had been secretary of state some time, a well meaning man, but without abilities, and a particular favourite with the king, was opposed by the whole weight and interest of Mr. Pitt, paymaster-general, and Mr. Fox, secretary at war. It was generally believed that the publick business could not go on, if another secretary was not appointed ; because Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox,

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though

though they agreed in nothing else, they united in opposing his measures; their abilities, though of opposite kinds, were universally acknowledged to be great, and by their superior influence in the house of commons, they had several times opposed Sir Thomas with success. It is a thing extremely uncommon in England, especially in these modern days, to see two gentlemen, who hold considerable places under the government, opposing upon every occasion, a secretary of state, who was supposed to know and to speak the sentiments of his master. Sir Thomas, being sensible of their superior interest in parliament, prudently resigned on the 10th of November, and the king afterwards gave the seals of his office to Mr. Fox, and lord Barrington succeeded Mr. Fox as secretary at war. The popular party, which we may call the opposition, being thus excluded, it laid the foundation for that enmity which marked the following year. Though these alterations were made, yet the treaties were very far from meeting with the unanimous approbation of both houses, some members were for referring them to a committee, but this was over-ruled: great debates arose, but they were at length approved by the majority. The house next provided for the service of the ensuing year; they voted 100,000*l.* as a subsidy to the empress of Russia; 54,140*l.* to the landgrave of Hesse; and 100,000*l.* to the elector of Bavaria, after several sharp debates. As the ministry were afraid of a visit from the French, the army was augmented with ten new regiments of foot, and eleven troops of light dragoons; 50,000 seamen, including 9000 marines, were voted, besides above 34,000 soldiers, which, with other expences and deficiencies in the last year, swelled the supplies to the sum of 7,229,117*l.* *. On the 23d of December,

* Of this vast sum 5000*l.* was given to Sir William Johnson, as a reward for his beating the baron Dieskau in America, though
his

December, the house adjourned to the 13th of January 1756.

The first transaction which presents itself in the new-year, is the remarkable convention of neutrality concluded between the kings of England and Prussia, on the 16th of January importing, " That being apprehensive the differences lately broke out in America, may extend to Europe, they for the de-

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fence

his victory was actually productive of no solid advantage; and 100,000*l.* was given to the king of Portugal, to relieve his subjects in their distresses, occasioned by a dreadful earthquake, which had ruined the city of Lisbon. This earthquake seems to have begun in Greenland, and passing under the northern ocean, the islands of Trinity, Ferro, some of the western isles of Scotland, under Ireland, the Irish sea, the south-west part of England, it continued its progress under the ocean, the English channel, to the bay of Biscay, and shook all Portugal, and great part of Spain; whence it passed under the sea to the continent of Africa, where, with incredible violence, it passed on in the same direction through the kingdoms of Fez, Morocco, &c. till probably it vented itself in the southern ocean. On the first of November, about nine o'clock in the morning, the shock was felt at Lisbon, the city then contained about 3 000 houses, extending near six miles in length, in the form of a crescent, on the ascent of a hill; the commotion was so violent that great part of the magnificent churches, monasteries, and public buildings, were thrown down, and upwards of 10,000 persons were buried in the ruins. In about fifteen minutes, this shock was followed by another, no less violent, during which the earth opened in several places, and having swallowed whole streets, threw up dreadful quantities of fire, water, and smoke. At the same time the water in the river Tagus, rose perpendicularly above twenty feet, so that those who escaped the general destruction, were alarmed with a cry that the sea was coming in. Several vessels were sunk in the river, either by the agitation of the water, or by the fall of the royal palace and other buildings situated on its banks. About noon two terrible fires broke out in different parts of the city, which almost completed its dissolution; the wind being high, the great flakes of fire were communicated to all parts of the town, and raged with great violence for eight days. This conflagration was no doubt at first partly fortuitous or natural, but its long continuance was chiefly occasioned by a gang of impious villains, who unawed by the tremendous scene before them,

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fence of their common country, Germany, and in order to preserve its peace and tranquillity, have concluded this convention of neutrality, whereby they reciprocally bind themselves not to suffer any foreign troops to enter the empire, during the troubles already mentioned, but to oppose with their utmost force, the march of all such troops, that Germany may not feel the calamities of war, nor its fundamental laws become injured." And it likewise stipulated

set fire to many parts of the town, to increase the general confusion, that they might have the better opportunity to plunder and rob and strip the desolated citizens. The king, queen, and all the royal family, escaped from the palace, just before it fell to the ground. The Spanish ambassador, and nine of his domesticks, perished under the ruins of his house. A remarkable act of providence seems to have distinguished the Protestants, and particularly the English, for amongst the great numbers settled in Lisbon, only about forty or fifty persons perished; owing in a great measure to the numbers of them that went out of town in the morning; it being the festival of All-Saints, and the day appointed for the celebration of the Auto-da-fe, when they chose to avoid the insults of the Portuguese populace. When the news of this dreadful event reached England, the whole kingdom was thrown into the utmost consternation, at first it was greatly feared lest its consequences might affect public credit, considering the interest which the British merchants have in the Portuguese trade, but these fears subsided, when it was known, that the quarter of the town in which the English lived, and where they had their warehouses, suffered the least. The generous donation granted by the house of commons, in consequence of a message from the king, was chiefly sent in corn, flour, rice, and beef, which were a very seasonable relief to the poor Portuguese, as they were in the utmost distress for the necessaries of life. This action reflects indelible honour on British humanity; and what enhances the merit of it is, the English themselves were in actual want of grain at the same time; and the king of Portugal in order to shew his gratitude on this occasion, ordered the British resident, Mr. Castres, to give the preference in the distribution of these supplies to the British subjects; accordingly about a thirtieth part of the provisions, and 2000 l. in money, were set aside for that purpose, and the remainder was delivered to the Portuguese, for which their king returned his thanks to the British crown and nation.

stipulated that Great-Britain should pay 20,000 l. as an indemnification for taking some Prussian vessels during the late war, in return for which the Prussian monarch promised to pay the Silesia loan, which he had stopt on that account. The fountain from whence this treaty flowed, was the care which the British monarch had at heart for the safety of his German dominions ; and the jealousy and aversion which the king of Prussia had conceived to the court of Petersburg : the former from his fear of the French, who he foresaw would attack Hanover ; and the latter who had formed a design of striking some bold stroke, from a fear of restriction and controulment, by the near situation of the Russians. Their views and interests thus chiming together, produced the above treaty ; and king George had the further satisfaction of removing his suspicions of this troublesome and warlike prince, who hovered on the skirts of his electorate, at the head of 150,000 men, that could in a week over-run it ; whom he had reason to dread, and whose conduct was at best but precarious. There is no occasion to mention who made the first advances towards forming this treaty. The king of Prussia had an offer of the alliance of France, but he exchanged his connexions with that power for one with Great-Britain, which he knew would be of more advantage to his designs ; though as to what his designs were, it is impossible to disclose, because it is believed he never imparted them to any confident or ally whatever ; yet to this treaty, and that of Petersburg, must be imputed the bloody and destructive war in the empire which succeeded. The house of Austria was always suspicious of his conduct, for during the last war he had given distinguished proofs of his inconstancy ; he had an active and penetrating genius, possessed great martial abilities, with an unbounded ambition, and had always a large number of troops ready for action, which he
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had lately augmented beyond the proportion of his revenues : as soon as the empress-queen heard of this alliance, she immediately threw herself into the arms of France, and now she obtained the friendship of that power at the expence of the barrier against it in the Netherlands, and also concluded a treaty of alliance with the court of Versailles on the first of May, and the empress of Russia was invited to accede to this treaty, which she afterwards did.

When the convention with Prussia was laid before the parliament, they granted the king 20,000*l.* to make good his engagements, and a million to be employed as exigencies should require. A bill was brought into the house by the honourable Charles Townshend, Esq; for composing a militia, and after receiving divers amendments it passed the commons, but in the lords, it fell upon a division, the majority supposing it wanted further amendments.

In the month of January M. Rouillè, the French king's minister and secretary of state, wrote a letter to Mr. Fox the British secretary, expostulating on the orders and instructions given to general Braddock and admiral Boscawen; he complained on the insult offered to the French flag, in taking two of their men of war, on the damages sustained by the French subjects in taking their merchant ships, and finally, he demanded full restitution; and when that should be made, he hoped all differences would be accommodated. Mr Fox was directed to answer, that no such restitution would be complied with, and that the steps taken by the British officers, were rendered indispensable by the hostilities, which the French began in the time of profound peace. Upon receipt of this answer, the French immediately began to repair the fortifications of Dunkirk, and they seized the English vessels, in the different ports of the kingdom, and sent their crews to prison. At Brest they employed a prodigious number of artificers and
seamen,

seamen, in equipping a large armament. At the same time they marched several bodies of troops along the coasts of Picardy, Normandy, and Brittany ; which so frightened the British ministry, that they were fully persuaded the enemy intended to invade Great-Britain, though it was actually no more than a parade of marches and counter-marches, calculated to elude us, while they pursued some more feasible design. The people caught the alarm from the evident signs of perplexity and consternation, which appeared among the ministry ; no one doubted the threatened invasion for a little while, and every one expected a declaration of war ; but this latter step was so carefully avoided, that most people apprehended they were averse to its being done, though the honour and interest of the nation loudly demanded it. When we consider the French had with the greatest insolence encroached upon the British territories in America, had attacked, seized, and drove off our traders, had committed there all kinds of hostilities, while in Europe they menaced an invasion, repaired the fortifications of Dunkirk, and their monarch offered large premiums to his subjects, who should equip privateers, we shall be amazed that the British ministry resolved to act on the offensive, and neglected to employ the natural strength of their country. The fears of a French invasion had taken such possession of their minds, that they thought of nothing but repelling this scare-crow ; they ordered colonel Yorke, the British resident at the Hague, to demand of the Dutch the 6000 men as stipulated by treaty, which they are to furnish when Great-Britain shall be threatened with an invasion ; the Dutch were perplexed by this demand, they foresaw that if they complied, it would involve them in the war, and expose them to a land attack from France, which they dreaded ; they therefore contrived several delays, before they could give an answer to the
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English memorial, which king George at length perceiving, ordered the resident to acquaint the princess regent, his daughter, that he would not insist on his demand, upon which the Dutch came to a resolution to adhere to a neutrality. About the latter end of March the king acquainted the parliament, that he had required a body of Hessian troops, pursuant to the late treaty, who were to be forthwith brought over for the defence of these kingdoms. To this message, it is certain, the parliament returned their thanks in a warm address. This unanimity encouraged Mr. Fox, the new minister, to move for an address, beseeching the king, that he would order twelve battalions of his electoral troops, for a more effectual defence of this island. There were many members, who were utterly averse to this motion, yet, considering the critical situation of affairs, they were afraid to oppose it, lest they should be exposed to a more odious suspicion. The address being voted, and presented, the king told them he would comply with their request; and before the end of the following month, the Hessians and Hanoverians were actually encamped in England; the expedition made use of on this occasion shews how vigilant men can be when they please; but no such activity marked the English affairs when we lost Minorca, nor in equipping any of our armaments against the enemy. Here we shall conclude the events of the parliament, as nothing else material happened during the session, which ended on the 27th of May. And now we shall resume our thread of the German transactions.

As soon as the treaty of alliance between the courts of Vienna, Versailles and Petersburg was concluded, they solicited the concurrence of those of Madrid and Turin; but these wisely resolved to adhere to a neutrality. As to the conduct of the king of Poland, elector of Saxony, we stand too near the time to be a proper judge of it. When the treaty of Petersburg

burgh was made, it is certain the empress queen endeavoured to draw him into the confederacy, and it is not to be doubted, but that he was willing to contribute his aid towards humbling a prince, who had, during the last war, entered his dominions without any provocation, took possession of his capital, routed his troops, and obliged him to pay a million of crowns to indemnify him for the expence of this expedition. Whatever answer the king of Poland gave to the empress queen we do not pretend to know : it is true, he did not sign the treaty, perhaps because he was situated in the very jaws of the enemy, and conscious, that the first part of the storm must fall upon himself. The remembrance of past misfortunes made him cautious now he entered into new measures, and yet she considered him as having acceded to the treaty ; for when the king of Prussia afterwards demanded of her the cause in making warlike preparations, she answered, they were for the defence of herself and *allies* ; this latter expression could mean nobody else but the elector of Saxony, as her other allies were then at too considerable a distance to be attacked by the king of Prussia. She even apprehended that he perfectly agreed with the sentiments of the two empresses, but his advocates say this belief was falsely grounded ; they affirm he mistook the sentiments of count Bruhl, his minister and favourite, for those of the elector himself. It is certain the minister did all in his power, by the most scandalous and artful intrigues, to make an open breach between the king of Prussia and the empress of Russia : but whether the king of Poland countenanced his proceedings, or whether the empress queen took his word as the same as his master, the world is yet in the dark. The king of Prussia, however, made a plausible handle of Bruhl's letters, copies of which he found at Dresden, and by many ingenious, and some erroneous constructions, he made the world believe the king

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of Poland was actually in the confederacy against him: this sort of casuistry did him abundance of service in England. Sweden was brought into the confederacy, in consequence of the treaty of alliance between the empress queen and the king of France, tho' she entered Germany upon a pretence of being guarantee of the treaty of Westphalia. The emissaries of France began to tamper among the senators of Sweden, who were no way averse to the war, when they were informed of the state of the confederacy: on the contrary, they entertained hopes of gaining considerable advantages by it, particularly the recovery of their ancient possessions in Pomerania: France did not fail to flatter their ambition; but a transaction happening in Sweden, proved such a check to this intrigue, that nothing further was done during the remainder of this year. The disposition of the diet or senate of Sweden was opposite to that of the king and queen; he was allied by inclination, and she by blood to the king of Prussia. The senate beheld this contrary opinion in their majesties with the utmost jealousy; they narrowly watched their conduct; and it was in the course of this strict observation, that they discovered a plot for altering the present form of the government, by augmenting the power of the crown. Several persons of rank being convicted of being concerned in this conspiracy were beheaded as principals; upon the whole it did not appear, that the king was concerned in this affair, yet he thought himself so hardly treated by the diet, that he threatened to resign his royalty, and retire to his hereditary dominions in Germany.

The king of Prussia, who had perfect intelligence of all political transactions, kept his army ready to march on a moment's notice; but, in order to poison the minds of the protestants of all Europe with a detestation of the courts of the confederacy, he industriously circulated a report, that by a secret article in
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the treaty of Versailles, the contracting powers, viz. France, Austria, and Russia, had bound themselves to destroy the protestant religion, and overturn the freedom of the empire, by a forced election of the king of the Romans. The cry of religion served as a handle for both sides. The partizans of the house of Austria declared, that the principal object of the treaty of alliance between the kings of Great Britain and Prussia, was the ruin of the catholic faith in Germany. During this war on paper, which found its way into the diet of the empire, and into the most respectable courts in Europe, the grand operation was preparing on a more solid and durable foundation: two considerable armies, with several large magazines, were assembling in Bohemia and Moravia. The king of Prussia, alarmed at these preparations, ordered his minister at Vienna to demand categorically, whether those preparations for war were not designed against him, or what were the intentions of the Imperial court? but he received only an equivocal answer, that the empress queen, in the present situation of affairs, found it necessary to make those preparations for the defence of herself and allies; and afterwards she declared, that those preparations were not resolved on till after the king of Prussia had been some time employed in making armaments. Thus it is evident, that each side had resolved on making war from motives purely its own. The king of Prussia was ready, and had been long waiting for an opportunity to strike some coup d'eclat; his character and conduct verify the assertion. The empress queen, even during the last war, determined on retaking Silesia the first favourable moment. Her alliances were made with this view, and her preparations for war were to give spirit for her negotiations. This latter circumstance obliged the king of Prussia to resolve not to suspend his operations any longer. He determined to enter Bohemia, in order

to destroy the Austrian armies and magazines in that kingdom; but the storm first fell upon Saxony, which he resolved to keep possession of as a frontier, because he had reason to believe the elector was in some measure connected with the two empresses. The king of Poland, who had dreaded this visitation, had drawn the troops of his electorate together at Pirna, where they encamped, surrounded by entrenchments, and a numerous artillery. At first the king of Prussia seemed only to demand a free passage for his troops, with an observance of neutrality on the part of the Saxons; and as a security for which, they should quit their post and disperse themselves. The former part of this demand was granted, but the latter was refused; upon which the king of Prussia seized the towns of Leipzig and Dresden, and formed a blockade round the Saxon camp at Pirna, in order to reduce them by famine, since its strong situation rendered an attack unadvisable. In the mean time his troops took possession of all the magazines and granaries they could find in the electorate; and he ordered the revenues to be seized, and paid to Prussian officers *. Two Austrian armies were at this time forming in Bohemia under M. Brown and M. Piccolomini, one of which he judged would speedily march to the relief of the Saxons; therefore to keep them in awe, he ordered M. Schwerin to enter Bohemia from the county of Glatz, and M. Keith to penetrate into it on the side of Misnia; but apprehending that they were not sufficient, or not entirely

* As soon as the king of Prussia entered Saxony, process was commenced against him in the emperor's aulic council, and in the diet of the empire, where he was condemned for contumacy; and the fiscal acquainted him that he was put under the ban of the empire, and adjudged fallen from the dignities and possessions which he held under it: at the same time the circles of the empire were ordered to furnish their contingents in men and money to put this sentence in execution.

confiding in their dispositions, he committed the blockade of Pirna to an officer of inferior note, and entered Bohemia himself with the main body of his army: he joined his troops under M. Keith, and advanced to attack the Austrians at Lowoschutz. Early in the morning, on the first day of October, the Prussian cavalry advanced to attack the enemy, who were covered by a numerous artillery; the good direction of this fire obliged them to recoil and retreat with considerable loss; however, they returned to the charge, and made an impression on the Austrian cavalry, as well as drove away some irregulars, who had galled them in flank; still they suffered greatly, insomuch that the king thought proper to order them to retreat to the rear of the army, from which they never afterwards advanced. The cannon, during this time, maintained a prodigious fire, and did great execution. M. Keith attacked the village of Lowoschutz at the head of the infantry. After their powder and shot were expended, the enemy were forced out of it by the soldiers bayonets, and the Prussians afterwards set its suburbs on fire. However, the Austrian army was not broke, nor did it quit the field of battle: the Prussians advanced not an inch further than Lowoschutz, where the king fixed his head quarters. The firing ceased on both sides, without any apparent cause, as one had not gained so great an advantage, nor the other suffered so material a loss to stagnate the action. At present the battle had all the appearances of being a drawn one, without being likely to produce any benefit to either, yet both armies sung *Te Deum*, both generals claimed the victory, and the gazettes of Vienna and Berlin teemed with falsehood on this occasion. The only way to reconcile them, is to acknowledge, which was really the fact, that both made a few prisoners, took a few cannon, and, for their trophies, gained a few colours. As to the loss, that of the Prussians doubt-
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less amounted to 2500 men, though they never owned it ; but that of the Austrians is generally believed to be more, and yet not much. Both armies encamped on the field, and remained there during the following night: next day the Austrians decamped, crossed the Egra in the face of their enemy, and retired to Budin for want of water. The Prussians returned to Saxony, and joined the troops, who had been left to block up the Saxons at Pirna. Thus, if the king of Prussia, when he entered Bohemia, intended to have wintered in that kingdom, he lost the battle ; but if his plan for this year's operations extended no further than to reduce the Saxons, he certainly gained it. M. Brown made divers motions to relieve the Saxons, who were now reduced to great hardships by famine, but he found it impossible, the Prussians had taken possession of all the defiles, avenues, mountains, &c. for a considerable distance round about Pirna. The king of Poland, while the king of Prussia was in Bohemia, quitted his German dominions ; and now he sent a letter to count Rutowski, who commanded at Pirna, vesting that officer with full power to surrender, or to take such measures, which he thought most conducive to the preservation of the troops. The Saxons were spent with hunger, and greatly fatigued by throwing bridges over the Elbe, and making several motions in order to effect their own delivery ; their horses were so weak, as not to be able to draw their artillery, and their post as difficult to leave as it was to force ; therefore they resolved in a council of war to surrender themselves to the king of Prussia. He compelled many of them to enter into his service, he obliged the electorate of Saxony to furnish him with a great number of recruits, and he levied the most exorbitant contributions, which, in case of non-payment, he threatened ruin to the inhabitants by military execution, and he took up his winter quarters amongst them ; thus
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were the poor Saxons obliged to bear the burthen of a war against themselves, and to have for their enemy the man who took upon himself the title of defender of protestantism, though this country is the state to which that religion owes its establishment and preservation. He forced open the doors of the royal palace at Dresden, though protected by the queen, to whom he had given the firmest assurances of all due respect: she was used with violence, and even put in danger of her life, before she quitted the cabinet in which the archives of the state were lodged. Every closet and every cabinet was broke open, and every part was strictly searched. These extraordinary severities and indecencies were decried by every civilized nation in Europe. The king of Prussia, in order to vindicate his conduct, published a memorial of the transactions, to which he annexed a copy of the authentic documents which he seized at Dresden; but, upon the whole, it contained nothing more than what we have mentioned in our attempt to explain the motives of this German war; it was circulated with great industry in all the courts of Europe by his ambassadors; in England it was received with open arms by those who found it their interest to become sycophants and time-servers. These took infinite pains to instil a good opinion of the king of Prussia into the minds of the people. They undertook to assert, that he was the defender of protestantism, and that he was so great and able an assistance to us, we could not, nay we should be ruined without him*.

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* This noisy nonsense about German politics turned the heads of the people; they forgot their own national dispute, which in this state of absurdity and lethargy, seemed with ruin and disgrace; they forgot, that but a little while before, the king of Prussia was the object of their utmost hatred, when they freely spent their money in Germany, for fear he should get Silesia, and now they began to pour forth their millions to prevent his losing it.

It was disloyalty, they affirmed, not to believe these tales, and yet they were palpable falsehoods : they were Jacobites and rebels who did not own that the king of Prussia was fighting for the cause of Great-Britain. The few sensible men who knew the true interest of their country, could not be heard in this tumultuous cry. These prostitutes of the public weal, made a mask for the true welfare of this nation ; they held out a false visage to the people, who were taught to idolize this shadow of honour, this monument of deception ; while impostors in great numbers took the field on paper, in shouting to the drunken mob, the praise of the Prussian demi-god.

The British affairs in America, wore as bad a complexion this year as last, partly owing to the mischiefs and broils at home, and partly to the different opinions which influenced the assemblies of the several provinces ; each was for attacking the enemy on his own frontiers, but not willing to assist his neighbour. The conduct of general Shirley, had in England been declared delitory, and considered as unsatisfactory ; therefore it was determined to supersede him, with another officer, and order him home ; but even these orders were not dated in London, till the last day of March, and then the commander was

it. Nay, what is more incredible, they suffered themselves to be deluded by an ignis fatuus, that the Protestant religion was in danger ; and yet in the last war, when Great-Britain had the empress queen in alliance, and the king of Prussia was assisted by the king of France, they did not think the Protestant religion at all concerned ; and he was then universally decried by ourselves and allies, as a man void of faith, religion, and principle. When he entered upon this war, he began to crush the very state that gave birth to Protestantism ; and in a little time there were more Protestant states fighting against him than for him ; and even these latter few, were taken into our own immediate pay, to prevent their joining the opposite cause. Where then is the danger to which the Protestant religion is exposed, but from the Protestants themselves, cutting one another's throats ?

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but just appointed. Colonel Webb, carried these dispatches to America, and he was followed by general Abercrombie, who arrived at New-York on the 20th of June, with some troops; but the earl of Loudon, the commander in chief, did not arrive there before the 23d of July. Whether these delays must be imputed to a state of stupifaction at home, we know not: it is certain they ruined the plan of operations, which were this year concerted for attacking fort Niagara, situated between the lakes Ontario and Erie, in order to cut off the communication between Canada and Louisiana. The marquis de Vandrueil, governor of Canada, being informed of this scheme, was determined to frustrate it. He got exact intelligence of the state and condition of fort Oswego, which was situated on the lake Ontario, and the number of vessels on the lake; this fort had been built by Mr. Shirley, in order to open and secure a passage to go and attack the French forts Niagara and Frontenac, and some vessels which were built on the lake, were designed to transport the troops into the enemies territories; it was also designed for covering the Iroquois, and securing the Indian trade, though in fact they were so corrupted by the French, that there was no longer any dependence on them. Vandrueil dispatched the marquis de Montcalm, a cruel wretch, who delighted in the most horrid butcheries, and every act of wanton barbarity, with about 3000 men to reduce this fort. As soon as he arrived on the banks of the lake, he received intimation that the English were sending a considerable quantity of stores and provisions to the fort, and he sent off a detachment of Indians to attack the convoy, which was commanded by captain Bradstreet, but that officer received them so well as to render their efforts ineffectual with loss: from some prisoners, which he made on this occasion, he learned the designs of the enemy, their numbers and position;

an account of which he dispatched to general Abercrombie at Albany, and this officer ordered colonel Webb, to hold himself in readiness to march to the relief of Oswego. No other information arrived at Albany concerning Oswego, till it was taken; Bradstreet having sent the stores and provisions into the fort, proceeded to Schenectady. Montcalm embarked his troops and cannon in boats, and crossed over the lake, and on the 11th of August he appeared before Oswego; the garrison of which consisted of 1600 men, commanded by colonel Mercer, an officer of approved bravery, and provided with one hundred pieces of cannon; but the fortifications of the place were not fit to resist regular approaches, the materials were principally of timber, the defences badly contrived, and even unfinished. Montcalm attacked it with thirty two pieces of cannon, and some mortars, but on the 13th colonel Mercer being killed, the garrison fell into confusion, the officers were divided in their opinions what to do, and on the 14th having considered that the place was untenable they demanded a capitulation, and surrendered on condition of being treated with humanity, and sent prisoners to Montreal. However, Montcalm, did not observe this promise, he permitted his Indians to massacre the defenceless soldiers, as they stood on the parade; to assassinate lieutenant de la Court, though under the protection of a French officer, to barbarously scalp all the sick in the hospital, and finally, in direct violation of the articles, he delivered up twenty of the garrison to the Indians, in lieu of that number they had lost during the siege, that they might be tortured to death, according to the cruel custom of the country. The vessels on the lake fell into the hands of the enemy; who immediately after the surrender of the fort demolished it, and embarked with their prisoners and cannon for fort Frontenac. It has been mentioned that captain Bradstreet, sent intel-

intelligence to general Abercrombie, of the enemy's intentions on Oswego, and that Mr. Webb was ordered to hold himself in readiness to march; this information arrived at Albany on the 12th of July, but general Webb did not leave that place in order to proceed to Oswego, till the 9th of August; on the 17th he received advice that the fort was taken, upon which he returned to Albany. The delay of this march was principally owing to the American governors: before general Webb could be provided with necessaries, lord Loudon arrived at Albany, which was on the 29th of July, and the relief of Oswego was the first object of his attention; but he was strenuously opposed by the province of New-York and others, who urged the taking of Crown-Point, not so much for the security of their own frontiers, as to divert him from relieving Oswego, which they hoped would fall, that they might have some appearance of reason for blaming general Shirley, who had always the security of it much at heart, though he resigned his command on the 25th of June. These enemies to their country at length acquiesced in sending general Webb, when it was too late. Nothing further was done; the troops wintered at Albany.

This year a new enemy started up against the English in the East-Indies: this was the Nabob of Bengal, or more properly speaking, the Suba of the three Provinces of Bengal, Bahir, and Orixá; he had but lately aspired to this dignity, which he obtained by a fortunate audacity; he was of a fickle and inconstant disposition, both in the measures of his government, and with his favourites; destitute of principle, void of sentiment, either of the past or the future; splenetic without a cause, and cruel in his hatred; but his prevailing passions were avarice, and the love of riches. He was flattered by some of his courtiers, who were either afraid of him, or solicitous

of being in his favour, that the English, settled in his dominions, were immensely rich, that he might under colour of granting them favour and protection, extort large sums from them, and that in case of refusal, his force was sufficient to crush them. Animated by this advice, he determined to attack the English, in order to shew them his power, though at this time they had not given him the least affront, nor manifested the least dislike to his person or government. His aversion to them proceeded from his information that they were rich. On the 4th of June, he seized the little town of Cassimbuzar, situated on the Ganges, at a small distance from Muxadavad his capital. Here he openly declared that his design was to deprive the English of all their settlements; and with this view he began his march southwards along the banks of the river to Calcutta, which is the principal English settlement there. He pretended to have a cause for marching against Calcutta, which was, that Mr. Drake, the governor, had granted protection to one of his subjects, whom he had outlawed for conspiring against him. We shall not enquire into the merits of this pretence; it is certain that he appeared before fort William at Calcutta, with an army of 70,000 men in the month of June. The governor, terrified by the numbers of the enemy, or, as being one of the people called Quakers, could not from motives of conscience resist an attack, immediately abandoned the fort, with many of the principal persons in the settlement, who saved themselves with their most valuable effects on board the ships. Notwithstanding this desertion, Mr. Holwell, the second in command, assisted by a few gallant friends, and the remains of a feeble garrison, bravely held out the fort to the last extremity; but a noble defence could not keep an untenable place, or affect an ungenerous enemy. On the 20th of June the fort was taken, and the garrison, consisting of one hundred

hundred and forty-six persons being made prisoners, were for that night, in this sultry climate, crammed into a dungeon, called the black-hole prison, a cube of only eighteen feet, walled to the eastward and southward, the only quarters from which they could receive air: there is no occasion to describe the cruel residence of these unhappy victims; the humane reader may easily fancy it; Mr. Holwell, with only twenty-two others came out alive next morning, to paint a scene of the most unfortunate distress which perhaps human nature ever suffered; the rest were suffocated or trampled to death. The Suba questioned him concerning the treasure in the fort, and though Mr. Holwell, affirmed there was none, yet he obstinately adhered to his mistaken opinion, and ordered them to be shackled and conducted to his capital, where they under-went another series of miseries: at length being convinced that there actually was no treasure at Calcutta, and his grand-mother interposing in their behalf, he granted them their liberty. This loss was severely felt by the East-India company, as it was the principal settlement which they had in Bengal, and the fort the only security which they had to this valuable part of their trade. To retrieve these affairs admiral Watson and colonel Clive were called with their forces from the coast of Coromandel, which they happily effected in the course of the following year.

Troubles, prior to these, had some time ago broke out on the coast of Coromandel, but we postponed giving a detail of them, as they had no connexion with any European concern, till we mentioned the events in India during the present year. In 1749, the grand Mogul, to whom all the Nabobs are subject, deposed Sundah Saheb, the Nabob of Arcot, and raised to that dignity Anawerde Khan, who immediately entered into a sort of alliance with the English. The disgraced Nabob, animated with the thoughts of revenge,

venge, had recourse to Monsieur Dupliex, the governor of Pondicherry, for a scheme to depose his rival; Dupliex, in consideration of his granting to the French some valuable immunities in case he succeeded, as well as glad of the opportunity of robbing the English of an ally, sent a body of French troops to his assistance, with whom, and some followers of his own, he defeated and slew Anawerde Khan in the plains of his own capital, and re-assumed the government of the Province. Mahommed Ali Khan, son to the deceased Nabob, fled with a few friends to Tiruchinapalli, a place of some strength, and lying considerably to the southward, where he solicited the assistance of the English, who granted his request, and sent major Lawrence with a supply of men and money to his relief: in consequence of this reinforcement some advantages were gained over the enemy; but nothing material was done, and soon after major Lawrence returned to England. He then came to fort St. David, and begged their more effectual support, urging that his, and their cause, was the same; for, if the enemies were suffered to proceed in their conquests, they should both be obliged to quit the whole coast. This representation gained him another reinforcement, but nothing being attempted, the English separated from his army, which the enemy were no sooner informed of, than they gave him battle, and totally defeated him in April 1750. He again retired to Tiruchinapalli, and again supplicated the assistance of the English, who entered into a close alliance with him, in consideration of his ceding to them some commercial points which had been long in dispute; mean while the conqueror followed him to his strong-hold, and laid siege to it. The first step which the English took, was the sending a detachment into the Province of Arcot, in order to divide the French forces; on this occasion Mr. Clive, purveyor of the army, offered

offered his service as a volunteer, and he was allowed to command this expedition. He made the utmost dispatch to Arcot, and with two hundred and ten Europeans he seized that city, before the enemy had any knowledge of his march. As soon as Sundah Saheb heard of this transaction, he detached his son to retake Arcot; this youth besieged it, and having at length made two breaches, he gave a general assault, but was so gallantly received and repulsed by Mr. Clive, that he retired from before the place with precipitation. At this juncture Mr. Clive, was reinforced by a detachment under captain Kirkpatrick, with which, and his garrison, he immediately marched after the enemy, and on the 3d of December 1752, gave them a total defeat in the plains of Arani, with very little loss on his own side; the cities of Arani and Kajevaran surrendered in consequence. At the beginning of the next year the enemy having collected their forces, consisting of French and Indians, advanced towards Madrafs, but hearing of Mr. Clive's approach, they retired to Koveripauk, about fifteen miles from Arcot; he still continuing to pursue them, they resolved to give him battle, placing their hopes of victory on their vast superiority in numbers; he advanced up to some intrenchments which they had thrown up, where the dispute lasted some time, with doubtful advantage, but at length it terminated in favour of Mr. Clive; the French surrendered, but it being dark when the battle ceased, the Indians got off, nevertheless this action proved such a severe blow to them, that they were never able to make head again in the Province of Arcot. By this time, major Lawrence, had returned from England, and was arrived at fort St. David, having assumed the command in chief of all the forces; he began his march for Tiruchinapalli, in order to attack Sundah Saheb, who on receiving advice of his approach retired from Tiruchinapalli to Syrinham. The Nabob of Tanjour
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sent a body of troops to the assistance of major Lawrence, by way of espousing the cause of Mahomed Ali Khan, for whom the English all this while were fighting. The British officer formed a blockade round Syrinham, which in a short time reduced Sundah Saheb's army to the utmost distress by the want of provisions, he himself in attempting to escape was made prisoner, and his head was struck off by order of the Nabob of Tanjour, to prevent disputes which might have arisen among the captors. On the 3d of June, Monsieur Law surrendered himself, with his troops and allies prisoners of war. Mr. Clive who had been detached on separate service, reduced in the mean time two of Sundah Saheb's fortified temples near Syrinham; afterwards he advanced into the kingdom of Golconda, and having drove the French out of the capital, he made them all prisoners. Monsieur Dupliex, now finding all his schemes completely baffled, and his troops every where made prisoners, resolved to sue for peace; accordingly with the consent of the companies in Europe, a convention was concluded, which stipulated that all territories taken should be restored; the Nabobs raised by the influence of either, should be acknowledged by both, but neither should interfere with the disputes among them. By this chain of signal successes, Mahommed Ali Khan was established in the government of Arcot. Mr. Clive returned to England, but the French continuing in the field, and having gained some advantages over major Lawrence, it was thought necessary by the company of Directors, to send him back again; and in 1755, admiral Watson arrived in the East-Indies, who concerted measures with Mr. Clive, for reducing Tulagee Angria, a piratical prince in the neighbourhood of Bombay, who had been for many years a troublesome neighbour to the English trade in the East-Indies. Mr. Clive with his troops having embarked on
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board the admiral's fleet, they sailed for Geriah, the pirate's capital, which they so briskly attacked by sea and land, that on the 13th of February 1756, it surrendered at discretion: a large quantity of cannon, money, and effects, were found in the place; and in the harbour they seized the whole of Angria's fleet: they left an English garrison in the fort, and returned to Madrafs, where hearing of the loss of Calcutta, they in October following departed for Bengal.

In Europe, the British affairs did not wear so promising an aspect, where the island of Minorca was in the mean time lost. We have already mentioned that the French by threatening to invade Great-Britain, and marching troops along their coast, in order to give weight to this report, so engrossed the attention of the British ministry to that measure, that they effectually pursued another design with security; yet the British agents, residents, consuls, ambassadors, &c. at different places, bordering on the Mediterranean, continued to send repeated advices to the ministry, from August 1755 to April 1756, that there was a grand armament equipping at Toulon, consisting of twelve or fifteen ships of the line, with transports to carry 20,000 men, who were encamped in the neighbourhood, and the squadron being victualled for only two months, could be destined for no other place than Minorca*; notwithstanding

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* The earl of Bristol the British ambassador at the court of Turin, informed the ministry in the month of August 1755, of the great preparations making at Toulon. Consul Bertles, at Nice, and consul Banks, at Carthage, did the same. Sir Benjamin Keene, at Madrid, wrote to Mr. Fox, particularly, assuring him, "That the French designed to invade Minorca." Multitudes of letters were every month received from different persons, at the admiralty, —s, and secretary of state's offices; all confirming the account of great preparations making at Toulon, for equipping

standing this information, notwithstanding the importance of the British commerce in the Mediterranean, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of general Blakeney, deputy-governor, of Minorca, representing the weakness of the garrison in St. Philip's castle, yet did the m——y from some motives, which neither are, nor perhaps ever will be known; leave the whole Mediterranean unprotected, except by two or three inconsiderable ships and frigates which could be of no service, till the month of May 1756, nor did they even send to general Blakeney his officers, who were in England upon leave of absence, till it was too late; instead of distinguishing themselves by their activity, as they had done when they transported the foreign mercenaries into England, they were marked by all Europe for their supineness, which the subjects of these realms did not fail to brand with the most odious and bitter appellations. At length when the destination of the enemy's armament was universally known, they seemed to rouse from their bed of lethargy, and like persons newly waked, they acted with such precipitation as fully proved the wisdom of their measures, and goodness of their intentions*; instead of sending a squadron superior to that of the enemy, under the direction of an officer, of approved conduct and courage, together

equipping a large armament; and from time to time telling not only the progress made in it, but also more clearly pointing out the place of its destination. These united testimonies were either disbelieved, or permitted to lie neglected, without a proper regard being paid to their contents and veracity, for some reasons which the public will never be acquainted with.

* We cannot omit one observation on the scandalous and public venality of these times, such a spirit of gaming universally prevailed, as perhaps never was seen or heard of in any age before. "It was common for ——— of the first distinction, to associate and enter into strict connexions with notorious sharpers, nay, even to walk with them arm in arm in public places."

together with a proper reinforcement for general Blakeney; they sent on the 7th day of April ten ships of the line, without either hospital or fire-ship, in very indifferent order, but poorly manned, and commanded by admiral Byng, an officer who had never been distinguished for his courage, nor was he at all popular in the navy, having on board as part of their complement a regiment of soldiers, to be landed at Gibraltar; and between forty and fifty officers, and near one hundred recruits, as a reinforcement for general Blakeney. The instructions which admiral Byng received, were actually amazing; he was, when he came to Gibraltar, to enquire whether any French squadron had passed the Streights, and if they had, and as it was probable they would be gone to America, he was to detach rear admiral West, the second in command, after them. Now the reader, will doubtless wonder, that supposing Mr. Byng should be joined at Gibraltar, by the two or three British ships in the Mediterranean, which was but a mere chance, what force could he detach after the enemy's fleet, which according to information consisted of twelve or fifteen ships of the line, and have left for the service of the Mediterranean? On the 12th of April, the French squadron sailed from Toulon, consisting of thirteen ships of the line, and seven frigates, commanded by M. de la Galissoniere, with about 11,000 men on board transports, commanded by the duke de Richlieu. On the 18th, they landed at Ciudadella, on the island of Minorca, and on the 25th they appeared before the castle of St. Philip, the chief fortress in the island. When news of these transactions arrived in England, the court immediately declared war against France, in the usual form, on the 18th of May; and on the 9th of June, the French king signed a like declaration against the king of Great-Britain.

Admiral Byng reached Gibraltar on the 2d of May, where he was joined by captain Edgecumbe with one ship and a sloop, who informed him, that the French troops had actually made a descent on the island of Minorca, that there was a French squadron of thirteen ships of the line cruising off the island, and that he had been obliged to retire on their approach. The admiral, agreeable to his instructions, demanded of lieutenant general Fowke, the lieutenant governor of Gibraltar, a detachment from his garrison, equal to a battalion, upon which the governor called a council of war to deliberate on two successive orders, which he had received from lord Barrington, the secretary at war; which appeared to him inconsistent and equivocal; the majority were of opinion that no troops ought to be put on board the fleet, except a detachment to supply the deficiency in the little squadron of captain Edgecumbe, who had left a number of his men with captain Scroope to assist in the defence of fort St. Philip. Mr. Byng finding that watering and cleaning here would be attended with delay and difficulty, resolved in the mean time to communicate all these pieces of intelligence to the lords of the admiralty, but unfortunately for himself, he made use of some expressions in his letter, which, in all probability proved his ruin. He remarked, that if he had had the good fortune to have been at Mahon before the enemy landed on the island, he could have prevented their getting footing on it; but he believed the throwing in a small reinforcement would be impolitic, as the siege could not be raised without a considerable land force, therefore it would only be adding to the number of men that must fall into the hands of the enemy. He complained, that there were no magazines at Gibraltar for supplying the squadron with necessaries, that the careening wharfs, pits, and store-houses were entirely decayed, so that he should find the greatest difficulty in cleaning
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ing the ships that were foul, and this was the case with some of the ships he had brought from England, as well as with those which had been cruizing some time in the Mediterranean. Some parts of this letter were an actual impeachment of the ministry, for not sending him sooner, and for neglecting the magazines and wharfs at Gibraltar. Apprehension and resentment now took place in their minds. The loss of Minorca they foresaw would raise a national clamour, and will it be denied, that from this time they began to take such measures as should transfer the blame from themselves to him who had presumed to disapprove of their conduct? On the 8th of May the admiral left Gibraltar; off Majorca he was joined by captain Harvey, and on the 19th he arrived within sight of Mahon, when he detached captain Harvey to land a letter for general Blakeney, informing him that the fleet was come to his assistance; but before this attempt could be made, the French squadron appeared, upon which he recalled captain Harvey, and some frigates which he had sent to reconnoitre the mouth of Mahon harbour. As it was evening when the enemy appeared the engagement was deferred till next day, when, about two o'clock, admiral Byng threw the signal to engage, upon which rear admiral West, with his division, bore down upon the enemy, and attacked them with such intrepidity, as to drive those ships, which were opposite to him, out of the line, and, had he been properly supported from the vice admiral's division, it is not doubted but he would have gained a complete victory; but the want of this, prevented his pursuing the advantage he had gained, lest his communication with the rest of the fleet should be cut off. Admiral Byng forbore to attack from an accident, which happened to the *Intrepid*, one of his division, at the beginning of the action, who being so disabled that she could not be managed, fell on the next ship in position,
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and this obliged the others to throw a-back to avoid confusion ; but we think we may safely venture to assert, that had this accident not happened, Mr. Byng would still have been as far from the action ; for when he was exhorted by his captain to bear down upon the enemy, he coolly replied, that he would not run into admiral Mathews's error, who precipitately broke the line and attacked singly ; and, upon the whole, it seems as if he was entirely averse to fighting, either from timidity, or an overstrained observance of discipline. Certain it is, he might have been engaged, for he was once so near that the hull of his ship received a few shot ; but he kept aloof, and appeared to hesitate, while Galiffioniere, the French admiral, seemed to care as little for fighting as he. It is true the Frenchman was superior both in number of men and weight of metal, yet he edged out of Mr. Byng's way, and thus the battle ended. Three of the English ships were greatly damaged, and there was a considerable number of seamen ill on board the squadron, which determined Mr. Byng to call a council of war, at which he permitted the land officers to be present: he said, that the enemy had the advantage of sending their wounded and sick to Minorca, and of having fresh men in return, and he added, that it was his opinion it was impossible to relieve the castle of St. Philip, and therefore they ought to go back to Gibraltar, which might require protection. The council concurred in these sentiments, and they were accordingly put in execution. Had Mr. Byng been defeated, this measure would certainly have been a prudent one: but as the engagement was little more than a sort of a skirmish, he ought to have fought the enemy's fleet a second time, and regulated his conduct on the issue of that event; his returning to Gibraltar can be no way justified, for though it is true that fortrefs was extremely weak at this time, yet it cannot be supposed Galiffioniere

niere would desert his station of covering Minorca, to act on the offensive against Gibraltar, while there was an English squadron in the Mediterranean; and tho' we may very well affirm, Mr. Byng had not a sufficient force for the relief of Minorca, yet it is certain he might have landed what little he had: for his neglect in this, his retreat to Gibraltar, and his scandalous conduct in the engagement, we must impartially declare he merited punishment: in all other respects, let the blame be laid where it ought. After the battle, Mr. Byng wrote an account of it to the lords of the admiralty, informing them also of his retreat to Gibraltar. This letter arrived several days before it was published *, and when it appeared in the Gazette, it was unfairly and miserably mangled; several expressions were wholly erased, others curtailed, and some paragraphs entirely struck out, which tended either to vindicate his conduct, or imply a censure on his superiors. This letter produced a clamour against the admiral throughout the kingdom, and every base and low art was used to foment this general rage; emissaries mingled in all public assemblies, even to the very mobs in the streets, to load the devoted admiral with ignominy, and harangue on his cowardice, folly, insolence, and misconduct. They vilified his person; and not content with ignorantly and slanderously wounding his private character, they hired the rabble to hang and burn him in effigy, and, in order to prepare the people for the approaching event, certain understrappers to a venal weak and worthless power, exaggerated the terrible consequences of losing Minorca; in a word, every artifice, though ever so wicked, was practised to keep up the resentment of the peo-

* Ten days before it appeared admiral Hawke was ordered to supercede admiral Byng.

ple. It is now no secret, that all these invidious pains were taken to engage their attention from the real objects, which had occasioned their losses and disgraces, to whose supine negligence, ignorance, stupidity, and misconduct, the loss of Minorca was more principally owing, than the bad behaviour of Mr. Byng; and this cruel treatment to his character, person, and actions, while he was absent, and before he was legally convicted, will reflect eternal defamation on the managers and fomenters of this popular cry.

When the French army appeared before fort St. Philip, governor Blakeney sent a letter to the French general, desiring to know his reasons for coming there; the answer implied, that he was come to reduce the island by way of retaliation for the losses which the French king and his subjects had sustained in the taking of their ships by the English. In as short a time as possible the operations of the siege began; at first the duke de Richlieu erected his batteries on a point called cape Mola, where he was at too great a distance to do any execution, and he was so exposed to the severe fire of the garrison, that he thought proper to alter his plan of attack, by advancing on the side of St. Philip's town; here he opened several batteries, which kept an incessant fire on the castle, but soon after the British squadron appeared, which so elevated the spirits of the garrison, that, by their redoubled efforts, they destroyed many of the enemy's works; and Mr. Boyd, commissary of the stores, ventured to embark in a little boat of six oars to go to the admiral; he passed the enemy's batteries without harm, notwithstanding they made a discharge of musquetry and cannon at him; but when he was got into the open sea, he perceived the squadron to be at a great distance, and two of the enemy's light vessels pursuing him, whereupon he determined to return to the castle, and was landed without having received the

the least damage. This transaction fairly confutes Mr. Byng's motion, that it was impracticable to open a communication with the garrison. Next day the French squadron returned to their station at the mouth of the harbour, which threw a damp on the spirits of the besieged. In the evening they were informed by a French deserter, that the English squadron had been defeated in an engagement, and this was soon confirmed by a feu de joye in the French camp. The brave garrison, notwithstanding this mortification, resolved to acquit themselves with honour and intrepidity, hoping that the English squadron would be reinforced, and return to their relief. The firing continued with great alacrity on both sides, till the 27th of June, when the enemy having made a practicable breach resolved to give a general assault. They began with attacking the out-works, the forts Charles and Marlborough, and after a terrible slaughter they gained possession of two strong redoubts; after which the duke de Richlieu beat a parley, and desired leave to bury his dead, which general Blakeney granted, and the Frenchman, in the interim, threw effectual reinforcements of men into all the lodgments he had made. The governor was in the mean time employed in holding a council of war, concerning the defence of the place, at which the majority declared for a capitulation, urging, that the works were in many parts ruined, and the garrison so exhausted by severe duty, as not to be able to sustain another desperate assault, which they had reason to apprehend would be given, as the duke de Richlieu was alarmed at a report, that the marshal de Bellisle would be sent to supercede him; besides they despaired of being relieved. Several members of the council opposed these reasons, with such excellent arguments as seemed to confute them; but, as perhaps they did not know the state of the enemy, who had been lately reinforced with

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a great number of men, and such a prodigious train of artillery as no fortification could withstand, we shall not repeat them. A capitulation was demanded, and granted, importing, that the garrison should march out with the honours of war, and be conveyed by sea to Gibraltar.

That misconduct which sent out admiral Byng too late, and with too slender a force, dispatched admiral Hawke to take the command of the fleet, and relieve Mahon; had this admiral been sent at first, the island had doubtless been preserved, but the sending him now, when, by this further delay, the fleet could no longer be of any service to Minorca, was wasting the time of a brave man upon an idle errand, when the interests of the country required vigorous measures. If we consider rightly, this measure was taken to appease the discontents of the people, at least that part of them who began to perceive the negligence of those at the helm. Mr. Hawke was ordered to send home the devoted scape-goat; and, as a further purification of the *righteous*, Lord Tyrawley, who went with him, was ordered to supercede lieutenant-general Fowke in his government of Gibraltar, and send him home also. When Sir Edward Hawke arrived off Minorca, he found the island was taken; however, he cruized about, exposed to violent tempests, and other hardships, while the French fleet lay safe in the harbour of Toulon.

When admiral Byng arrived in England he was sent under a strong guard to Greenwich hospital, where he was confined a close prisoner, till the officers from the Mediterranean could be spared to attend his trial by a court martial. When general Blakeney arrived in London he met with a gracious reception at court, and was by the king promoted to the rank of an Irish baron. Party lifted him up as an object worthy of public veneration, and the people idolized

lized him in his infirmities. The same party trampled upon Byng with abhorrence and contempt. Such was prejudice and passion. A few who were of a medium cast, saw that these officers were viewed at the different ends of a false perspective; they saw too, that it was contrived with great ingenuity, and applied with the utmost dexterity, which never failed to deceive, and work self-preservation. At this time addresses were brought from all parts of this kingdom to the throne, lamenting the late miscarriages, praying, that the authors of them might be brought to justice, hinting at the misconduct of the ministry, in not sending timely and effectual succours, and almost insinuating on a militia.

The first victim offered to quiet the discontents of an injured people was lieutenant general Fowke, whose remarkable conduct and integrity, as well as his amiable private character, had always, till this unfortunate period, when he fell under the displeasure of the government, distinguished him as a man of worth and honour; he was accused of having disobeyed the orders of the secretary at war, which the reader will see in the notes *. Mr. Fowke alledged,

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* To lieut. gen. F — ke, or, in his absence, to the commander in chief in his majesty's garrison at Gibraltar.

War-Office, March 21, 1756.

S I R,

I am commanded to acquaint you, that it is his majesty's pleasure that you receive into your garrison lord Robert Bertie's regiment, to do duty there; and in case you shall apprehend, that the French intend to make any attempt upon his majesty's island of Minorca, it is his majesty's pleasure, that you make a detachment out of the troops in your garrison equal to a battalion, to be commanded by a lieutenant-colonel and major, to be the eldest in your garrison, to be put on board the fleet for the relief of Minorca, as the admiral shall think convenient, who is to carry them to the said island. I am

Your humble Servant,

B.

To

1756

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that they were confused, contradictory, and implied a discretionary power. The court was equally divided,

To lieut. gen. F——ke, or, in his absence, to the commander in chief in his Majesty's garrison in Gibraltar.

War-Office, April 1, 1756.

S I R,

It is his majesty's pleasure, that you receive into your garrison the women and children belonging to lord Robert Bertie's regiment.

To lieut. gen. F——ke, or the commander in chief at Gibraltar.

War-Office, May 12, 1756.

S I R,

I wrote to you by general Stewart : *if* that order is *not* complied with, *then* you are now to make a detachment of 700 men out of your own regiment and Guise's ; and also another detachment out of Pulteney's and Panmure's regiments, and send them on board the fleet for the relief of Mahon. But *if* that order *has* been complied with, *then* you are to make only one detachment of 700 men, to be commanded by another lieutenant-colonel and major, and to send it to Mahon ; and you are also to detain all such empty vessels as shall come into your harbour, and keep them in readiness for any *farther transportation of troops*. I have also his royal highness the duke of Cumberland's commands to desire, that you will keep your garrison as alert as possible, during this *critical time*, and give such *other assistance* as may be in your power for the relief of Minorca ; taking care, however, not to fatigue or *endanger* your own garrison.

These letters Mr. Fowke received at one time from the same hand. The third letter not mentioning that it superceded the first, left it in full force. The word *if* at the beginning of this last letter, and other parts of it, seemed to imply that the other order was discretionary. Upon the whole, Mr. Fowke thought they were both together unintelligible, and he called a council of war at Gibraltar, not to deliberate, whether he *should obey* them, but *how* he should *understand* them. By the first letter lord Robert Bertie's regiment, commonly called the fuziliers, was ordered into garrison : by the second he was ordered to receive the wives and children, who must have disembarked with the regiment [this letter was meant, that the governor should conclude from it the regiment was to be sent to Minorca, and it was to prevent any useless mouths going thither : but is not this drawing conclusions with-

ed, whether they should acquit him, or suspend him for a year ; but the president, who in these cases has the casting vote, gave it against the prisoner ; and the king soon after dismissed him from his service. The trial and sentence of admiral Byng did not happen till the following year.

Notwithstanding all attempts to make Byng the only object of public resentment, it became in the long run impossible, the ministry shared equally with him, and the clamour continued to be throughout the kingdom. As the ministry were strong at the bottom they might have withstood these shocks, had they agreed among themselves. The loss of Minorca wrought several alterations in the administration. The duke of Devonshire presided at the board of treasury, in lieu of the duke of Newcastle. Mr. Legg was made chancellor of the Exchequer, in the room of Mr. Littleton made a peer, and the earl Temple, brother-in-law to Mr. Pitt, presided at a new board of admiralty. The loss of Oswego in America added

without premises ? or is it customary in military orders, which cannot be too clearly expressed ?] and by the third, the regiment was supposed to be on board. Now does it appear, that Mr. Fowke was to send a detachment, together with fuziliers to Minorca ? or that he was to send a detachment from the garrison, detaining the fuziliers at Gibraltar ? after 275 men had been spared to captain Edgcumbe, the whole garrison was but 2531, and the ordinary duty required 839, therefore there was not enough for three reliefs ; and this too, at a time when the place was supposed to be in danger, nay when the government themselves thought so, as is evident from the conclusion of the last letter. This determined the council of war not to send any troops to Minorca. But supposing the orders had been positive, and he had obeyed them, as they ought to have arrived, viz. sent 700 men according to the first letter, and 700 according to the third, would he have had enough left for the defence and preservation of the fortress ?—And to crown the whole, what could be the meaning of that order to detain all empty vessels for a *further* transportation of troops,—was he to embark the whole garrison, and abandon the place ?

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more fuel to the flame; and now the fears of the people about a French invasion having subsided, the Hanoverians, who were under their noses, were loaded with a considerable share of this popular indignation; but it being thought necessary for the defence of their own country to send them back, it was accordingly done: part of the kingdom rejoiced at this measure, while another languished at the the folly which brought them.

On the second of December the parliament met, when the clamour against the ministry was as great within doors as it was without. Mr. F—— thought he bore too great a share of the public odium, and therefore resigned his post of secretary of state, but not without hopes of resuming it with augmented power, for which he apprehended the embarrassment of parties would afford him an opportunity. As he was a principal prop of the ministry, his removal occasioned the whole structure to fall to pieces. It could not seem unnatural for that party which worked the downfall of this, to succeed to the vacant places. On the 4th of December Mr. Pitt was appointed secretary of state, and many other consonant promotions were made. This minister, from very laudable motives, attempted to give a turn to the affairs of his country, and those who had resigned did not make much opposition in parliament; he, by a spirit peculiar to himself, began to prepare for attacking France heartily by sea, a method which he knew would most affect her, and be productive of the only solid advantage which this nation could reap from a war with her: he aimed at the empire of the sea, and France was not ready for such an enemy, having had all along to deal with ministers of inferior abilities. Some other states of Europe were surprised; he declared positively against all foreign subsidies, and asserted, that not even half a man should be sent to Germany; he was unanimously applauded, and
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all degrees in the kingdom gave themselves up to hope, except a few, being the old junto, who finding that their new associates would not enter into some measures which favoured the views of the ——— set hard to work to under-mine his narrow bottom. They represented him and his adherents, as imperious, obstinate, and ignorant, and even went so far as to question their loyalty.

But at present the trial of admiral Byng, diverted all attention; which was held on board the St. George man of war in Portsmouth; when after a long sitting the court unanimously agreed, he had been negligent in the performance of his duty at the time; he ought to have engaged the French admiral; and that this negligence partly arose from an error in his judgment; but from many favourable symptoms, the court thought him an object worthy of mercy, and therefore recommended him, because the 12th article of war, which, by the bye, Mr. Byng had greatly promoted, prescribes death without mitigation in cases of negligence. Many of the officers who composed this tribunal, manifested signs of grief at his condemnation, and it was generally believed that the admiral thought he had fully discharged his duty; but he relied too much on conscious innocence. Great interest was made in his behalf, and perhaps his preservation would have been effected, had not the most infamous arts been used, to whet the savage appetites of the populace, and make them cry aloud for blood and vengeance; therefore it was judged necessary to sacrifice him, to appease that inhuman fury; but the warrant of the lords of the admiralty, directing his execution, one gentleman of the board refused to sign, for reasons which to us appear extremely eligible; the reader will see them in the note*.

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* “ The twelfth article of war, on which admiral Byng's sentence is grounded, says, “ That every person who, in time of action,

The 14th of March, 1757, was the day appointed for the admiral's execution ; he was at this time on board the *Monarque* man of war ; about noon, he took leave of a clergyman and two friends who attended him, and walked out of the great cabin to the quarter-deck, where two files of marines

action, shall withdraw, keep back, or not come into fight, or who shall not do his utmost, &c. through motives of cowardice, negligence, or disaffection, shall suffer death." The court-martial does, in express words, acquit admiral Byng of cowardice and disaffection, and does not name the word negligence. Admiral Byng does not, as I conceive, fall under the letter or description of the twelfth article of war. It may be said, that negligence is implied, though the word is not mentioned ; otherwise the court-martial would not have brought his offence under the twelfth article, having acquitted him of cowardice and disaffection. But it must be acknowledged, that the negligence implied, cannot be wilful negligence ; for wilful negligence, in admiral Byng's situation, must have proceeded from either cowardice or disaffection, and he is expressly acquitted of both these crimes : besides these crimes, which are implied only, and not named, may indeed justify suspicion, and private opinion ; but cannot satisfy the conscience in a case of blood.

" Admiral Byng's fate was referred to a court-martial ; his life and death were left to their opinions. The court-martial condemn him to death, because, as they expressly say, they were under a necessity of doing so by reason of the letter of the law, the severity of which they complained of, because it admits of no mitigation. The court-martial expressly say, that for the sake of their consciences, as well as in justice to the prisoner, they most earnestly recommend him to his majesty for mercy ; it is evident then, that in the opinions and consciences of the judges, he was not deserving of death.

" The question then is, shall the opinions, or necessities, of the court-martial determine Admiral Byng's fate ? if it should be the latter, he will be executed contrary to the intentions and meaning of the judges ; if the former, his life is not forfeited. His judges declare him not deserving of death ; but, mistaking either the meaning of the law, or the nature of his offence, they bring him under an article of war, which, according to their own description of his offence, he does not, I conceive, fall under ; and then they condemn him to death, because, as they say, the law admits of no mitigation. Can a man's life be taken away by such a sentence ?"

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were ready, he immediately kneeled down, tied a handkerchief over his eyes, and dropped another as a signal for his executioners to fire, when five of the balls pass'd through his body, and he dropped down dead in an instant. The time of acting this tragedy was not three minutes.

The militia bill was once more introduced into the house of commons, by the honourable Mr. George Townshend, and by the honourable Mr. Charles Townshend, brothers. The minds of the people were prepared for this laudable and necessary act by some pamphlets written by persons of distinction, shewing the benefit and propriety of a national militia, in a time of war. However, there were many individuals in power, who secretly disliked it; and many who acquiesced in it, are said to have not been hearty in its favour, but none chose to avow their disapprobation, it being too popular an object. After divers amendments, the bill passed both houses, and received the royal assent. To this succeeded a message from the king, acquainting the house, that the French were preparing to enter Germany, and invade his electoral dominions, and those of his ally the king of Prussia; and that he required such assistance as would enable him to form an army of observation, for the defence of those territories, and also for fulfilling his engagements with the king of Prussia. This message was complied with; and about the same time the parliament addressed the king, for all the papers, letters, instructions, and orders, any way relative to the affair of Minorca; which were laid before them in such multitudes, that the truth lay buried in heaps of paper; and seemed to require the business of a whole session, to investigate the facts; some faults were found with the nature of this enquiry; but we shall forbear descending into the particulars of either it or them, as the whole ended in nothing; the parliament could not be brought to angry votes;

the result of the enquiry was as favourable as any body could wish.

The next object of public attention, was a body of troops assembling in Westphalia, under the stile of an army of observation, to be commanded by the duke of Cumberland, designed to observe the motions of the French, who were preparing to invade the electorate of Hanover. That unpopular party, who were opponents to Mr. Pitt, asserted, that we ought to assist this army of observation with our troops and money: and they supported this argument with the following sentiments; the increase of French power, and the influence of France, among the neighbouring nations, they apprehended to be the worst of evils; to prevent this dangerous aggrandizement, it was absolutely necessary to pay a strict regard to the balance of power, and seek our particular safety and liberty in the general safety and liberty of Europe; to keep a close connexion with the continent, both by large subsidies, and by assisting with our troops; for this purpose, and for securing the present establishment, a standing army was to be maintained; and that our navy ought only to be employed subserviently, to the views of the continental system: they were for preserving the authority of the government entire, and in order to make government easy, they were for ruling men by their interests, that is, they were for continuing that——— practice, which had long been in use, of procuring a majority in parliament, not forgetting the proper management attending the distribution of the numerous lucrative places in the disposal of the crown. But the popular party, at the head of which stood the British patriot, affirmed different sentiments: they were of the same opinions with regard to setting bounds to the power of France, but our situation they said, dictated a narrower, a more natural, a safer, and a less expensive plan of politics. Great-Britain being an island,
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its conduct ought not to be the same with that of the nations on the continent; our natural strength is maritime, and that ought vigorously to be exerted; trade is our natural employment, and they ought mutually to support each other: if we turn our backs to our real interests, abandon our natural element, enter that inextricable labyrinth of continental politics, make ourselves parties in every controversy, exhaust our wealth in purchasing the useless and precarious friendship of every petty prince or state, waste the blood of our people in all the quarrels that may arise on the continent, all this will be so far from going the right way to reduce France, that we attack her on the strongest side, and only destroy ourselves by such ill-judged efforts against the enemy: while we preserve the superiority at sea, we have nothing to fear from the superiority of France at land, we can always cut the sinews of her strength by destroying her traffic; to fear an invasion from a power weak in its marine, is the idlest of all fears; but allowing it were possible, a well trained militia would with zeal be our best protection; for a standing army in every shape is dangerous to freedom, our government being connected with the liberty of the subject needs no assistance from despotic power; neither is parliamentary interest necessary; a good government will not be opposed, and men need no bribes to persuade them to their duty.

This conflict between an old established interest, and the torrent of popularity lasted some time, and the nation was greatly injured by it. It is not proper to trace the steps from whence it began, nor to pursue it any further. We hope we have said enough for every intelligent Englishman to form an idea of the dismissal of the minister, which happened in the course of the dispute. Perhaps the old junto, who immediately surrounded the ——— affirmed, that with such obstinate and ignorant colleagues, the ma-

chine of g—— could not be moved according to ——'s inclination; and by this advantage of the closet, over his little court influence, they gained their point. On the fifth of April the king commanded Mr. Pitt to resign, and four days after Mr. Legge resigned, and other dismissions were made of course. The case of the nation was at this time truly deplorable; we were engaged in a war which had hitherto proved unsuccessful, we began to despair of our military virtue, and our public spirit seemed to be extinguished; faction raged with the utmost violence, our operations were suspended, and while we had no ministry, there was no plan to follow. The principal persons in the kingdom were divided by three parties; the first were those who had formed their connexions under an old ministry, some of them had grown to places and power; all of them were distinguished by their want of abilities, and popularity, which, in a government like ours is an essential thing they needed most, but all these were almost overbalanced by two articles; the monied interest they had almost entirely, and of parliamentary influence, they had by far the greatest share. The second party were only powerful in a chasm, it is true, they succeeded to office, but in a short time they were obliged to abandon their posts; they were more unpopular than the first party; they did not even attempt to preserve appearances necessary to popularity; their parliamentary strength was inferior, though respectable, and their abilities were allowed to be great and many. The third party possessed an unbounded popularity; their great and glorious leader was idolized by the people, who saw in him and his friends that spirit to vindicate and assert our rights, which we had long wanted: these patriots had courage and honesty to pursue the real interests of our country in defiance of power, and in contempt of private advantages. They possessed a solid judgment
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and a keen penetration: their eloquence was nervous, bold and admirable; it startled the sons of corruption, exposed the iniquitous and base, and while it revived, gave vigour to the drooping spirits of their injured countrymen; in a word, they were patriots without prejudice, and courtiers without dependance. Their strength in parliament was but trifling, and their influence at court less: but they were beloved by the people, who reposed the most perfect confidence in their integrity. The disinterestedness of their leader was universally allowed even by his enemies; and his application was equal to his abilities. The turning these men out of employment was so far from working their disgrace as was intended, that it made them, if possible, shine with more distinguished lustre; the whole nation rose up as one man to vindicate their conduct, and the freedoms of most of the great cities and corporations in Great Britain and Ireland were transmitted to Mr. Pitt and Mr. Legge in golden boxes, accompanied with elegant addresses, paying the highest encomiums on the patriotism and virtue of their administration. No body succeeded to Mr. Pitt's office. On the 6th of April lord Mansfield was appointed chancellor of the exchequer, and a new board of admiralty was appointed with the earl of Winchelsea at its head. Three days after these alterations were made, the duke of Cumberland was sent to Hanover to command an army of observation, consisting of between 30 and 40,000 Hanoverians and Hessians. This measure was taken in consequence of the movement of a French army towards the Rhine, composed of those troops which they had last year assembled on the coasts of Picardy, Brittany and Normandy, with a view of proceeding to the empire, and attack the king of Prussia, as they pretended, in consequence of their treaty with the empress queen, and their being guarantees of the treaty of Westphalia; though perhaps their real design was no
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other than to make a conquest of the electorate of Hanover, by which they judged they could oblige the king of England to make some concessions with regard to America. The name of Hanover was at this time so unpopular in England, that the people, after the example of their late patriot minister, would not hear of a man or a shilling being sent thither. We must own this was carrying the rigid extreme of politics rather too far; Hanover being attacked solely on an English cause, we ought to have sent money to its relief, for which there was at that time men enough to be had in Germany; but the sending our troops thither, while we are at war with France, is doubly prejudicial to this nation, for, by want of men, we cannot act on the offensive against France as we ought.

The want of a settled ministry occasioned the misfortune of our having no fixed plan of politics at the beginning of the year; and our affairs were not likely to go well, when it was uncertain how we should pursue them from such a variety of changing: during the whole spring nothing was to be seen or heard at court but confusion and cabal: at length, when we were almost ruined by this state of anarchy, and when our generals had taken the field in every quarter, though perhaps not without the fear of being disgraced by new masters, the caballing seemed to cease, and a reconciliation among the parties began to be effected; perhaps the old junto, who had incurred the censure of the people were afraid to push matters to an extremity: they now saw that effects of popularity which they once despised, and that the people were not to be led by the nose implicitly into every measure as they had apprehended; addresses made their way to the throne, praying, that the dismissed ministers might be restored, for upon them depended the security and honour of the nation, and the success of the war, which had hitherto teemed with

with disgrace and misfortune: these were terrible blows to the old junto's power, and there was no concealing them. On the 29th of June the king restored Mr. Pitt to his office, and three days after Mr. Legge was appointed chancellor of the exchequer; the duke of Newcastle was placed at the head of a new board of treasury, lord Anson first lord of the admiralty, and Mr. Fox paymaster of the forces. This arrangement was productive of the most happy consequences, and whoever advised it was a friend to Great Britain. It was impossible to exclude from the administration the late ministry: their influence in council and parliament was so great, that they could thwart every measure in which they were not immediately concerned or consulted; therefore this was the best step that could be taken, because it was an healing one, and while it satisfied the heads of the parties themselves, it could not fail of being agreeable to their numerous friends; and it had one advantage above all these, which was, that it entirely quelled the spirit of faction, no one party being able on its single bottom to do any thing; and this coalition, so necessary in a government like ours, gave universal satisfaction to all ranks of people. It is not proper to trace out the means through which it was effected; the reader must be content with our observing, that after the parties had abated something in their hard and rigorous terms, by which all things had been pushed to an extreme, they consented to a kind of a capitulation, and the court and the people were reconciled to its terms. There could be no fear of neglect where the vigilance and capacity of Mr. Pitt were to be exerted.

In the mean time the operations in Germany on the side of the king of Prussia were begun with great alacrity. He defied the ban, and though he knew the state of the confederacy against him, he resolved to force his way into Bohemia, and attack its capital
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on a sudden. The Austrians are said to have had 100,000 men, commanded by prince Charles of Lorraine and count Brown, ready to oppose his passage. The king divided his army into three bodies, and then began his march. One of these divisions, commanded by the prince of Bevern, defeated a large corps of the enemy at Richenberg. The whole army entered Bohemia without any further opposition, and with surprizing rapidity pushed forward to Prague. At a small distance from that city lay the Austrian army, most advantageously posted; their camp was fortified by art and nature in such a manner, that any common general would have deemed it impregnable; but the Prussians, who were wedded to danger and difficulties, thought of nothing but victory. On the 6th of May they passed the morasses, which lay between them and the enemy, climbed several precipices, and faced the Austrian batteries with a resolution that is hardly credible; the action was general, close and obstinate, but the efforts of the Prussians proved at length superior; the numbers of the slain on both sides was very great; the victors lost the brave marshal Schwerin, at the age of eighty two, while he was at the head of his regiment holding a colonel's standard in his hand; and on the side of the vanquished marshal Brown was mortally wounded, which threw the Austrian army into such irreparable confusion, that they precipitately quitted the field, and left their whole camp to the Prussians. About 40,000 of the fugitives, with the generals, took refuge in Prague, and the rest fled towards Moravia. The king of Prussia lost no time in immediately investing the city, and cutting off all succours. Many people thought an attack on this place unadviseable, considering the great number of the garrison, and from the same cause apprehended its reduction by famine the more certain. The monarch however is said to have been deaf to reason, he prepared to bombard the town, and

and on the 29th of May at midnight, upon the signal of a rocket, four batteries were opened, which discharged every twenty four hours 288 bombs, besides a vast multitude of red hot balls. One would think that the vengeance of man was striving to be more dreadful than the greatest terrors of nature; for just before these malicious engines began to pour destruction on the unfortunate city, there were felt and heard one of the most terrible storms of rain and thunder which had ever been known in the memory of the oldest man there. The town was soon in flames in every part. The clergy, magistrates and burghers seeing the city on the point of being reduced to a heap of rubbish, supplicated the commander in the most pathetic language to listen to terms with the enemy, prince Charles, the commander was deaf to their terms. M. Brown at this time was dead, the chagrin he suffered is said to have proved mortal, and not the wound he received in the battle. Twelve thousand useless mouths were driven out of Prague, and by the Prussians forced back again. Here we will leave this cruel scene and turn to the other affairs which were transacting in the interim.

In the north all things seemed to bear hard upon the king of Prussia. The empress of Russia, true to her resentments and engagements, sent 60,000 men, commanded by M. Apraxin, who invaded Ducal Prussia, and took the towns of Memel and Pillau: she also equipped a fleet in the Baltic, destined to co-operate with the army. The king of Sweden, though allied by blood and inclination to the king of Prussia, could not rule the senate, who were jealous of his sentiments, and flattered by the intrigues and subsidies of France, which cemented all their old attachment to her; and the duke of Mecklenburg agreed to join the Swedish army with 6,000 men, when it should be assembled. The French army upon the Lower Rhine, consisting of 80,000 men,

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commanded by M. d'Etrées, an officer of great abilities, seized Cleves, Meurs, and Gueldres, while a detachment seized Embden, and whatever else belonged to the king of Prussia in East Friesland. The contingents of the empire were assembled to execute the ban, and the command of these troops was given to the prince of Saxe-Hildbourghausen. The unwillingness with which this army acted, is not altogether unaccountable; many of them feared the house of Austria, and they were accustomed to this fear, by the tyrannous influence of that family, which had been in a manner hereditary in the Empire: then would they heartily support a power they dreaded, and almost disliked? probably they would have remained in a state of inactivity, or have deserted to the king of Prussia, had not the French agreed to send 25,000 men, under the command of the prince de Soubize, to their assistance; the French troops were obliged to be posted between their regiments, in such a manner, as might prevent desertion, revolt, and all other attempts to disobey the orders of the commander in chief, otherwise this army would have dwindled away to nothing.

While the siege of Prague was carrying on with the utmost fury, count Daun undertook to turn the fortune of the war, in favour of the house of Austria; he was a general of extraordinary abilities, he had had a long experience, had seen many scenes of action, and had rose to this superior command, not by court favour, but by the slow gradation of mere merit, without noise, and in universal esteem. He collected the fugitives of the Austrian army, he took the garrisons of most of the fortified towns in Austria, and stripped their ramparts of cannon, in order to compose a train of artillery: notwithstanding the affairs of the empress queen, seemed verging to inevitable ruin, and every thing seemed wrought up to a desperate point, he entered the
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field in Bohemia, and took post at Colin, a small distance from Prague, from whence he fed the garrison with hopes of relief, which he apprehended would draw the enemy to a battle. The king of Prussia was sensible of the advantages derived from that situation; he knew Prague would have surrendered, if Daun had not appeared, as the garrison were reduced to the eating of horse flesh; therefore, he resolved without delay, to drive the Austrian general from his entrenched post. Marshal Keith, a very able officer in the Prussian service, advised his master to reduce Prague before he gave battle to count Daun, or else to raise the siege entirely, and give him battle with his whole army; but the king of Prussia had formed his plan, and he would not alter it; he resolved to do a great deal of work in a little time, to divide his forces, and to beat count Daun, and take Prague at the same time; therefore, he drew 32,000 men from before Prague, though there was an army in it to besiege, and marched with them to Colin, where he found count Daun with upwards of 60,000 men, in every part intrenched up to his teeth, and defended by one of the most formidable trains of artillery he ever saw. The monarch, so blinded with his uniform success, began an attack on these impregnable defences, with his little force. The enemy's artillery swept them away in great numbers as they attempted to climb the precipices; in vain were the Prussians inspired with a remembrance of their former victories, in vain did they return to the attack, with all the weight of ardor, zeal, and courage; they still recoiled; their impetuosity was broke every time they advanced, by superior numbers, and situation; in a word, they were too few for this desperate enterprize. Daun never stirred from his entrenchments; he knew the king of Prussia had not brought troops enough to force them, and he saw with pleasure those men sacrificed

in thousands, who had struck terror to the gates of Vienna, because the king of Prussia, by such a loss of his best troops, would be less formidable during the remainder of the campaign. The king made seven furious, but ineffectual attacks, upon the enemies' entrenchments; he himself, at the head of his cavalry made a most vigorous and intrepid charge; but that, like the rest, proving unsuccessful, he determined to draw off, and called aloud to the prince of Bevern: "*Nous ferons mieux un autre fois.*"* They effected a tolerable retreat to Prague, as Daun did not venture to pursue them. The king joined his troops under general Keith, whom he had left before the city, and prepared to raise the siege directly; he had industriously concealed his loss in the battle; but this measure sufficiently proves it must have been very great, besides the innumerable ill consequences of a defeat, such as wounding the spirit of the troops, desertions, &c. He raised the siege of Prague that night, and began his march for Saxony with the utmost speed; as soon as the imprisoned Austrians discovered the evacuation, they sallied out, but it was too late to do him any material damage. Count Daun joined them, and they received him with all the transport due to a deliverer; they, in conjunction watched the motions of the Prussian monarch, who being inferior to them in numbers, continued to retire, and began to act upon a defensive plan.

The battle of Colin, in a few weeks, entirely changed the face of affairs in Germany. The enemies

* "*We will do better another time.*" Hence it is evident, he took the blame of this miscarriage upon himself; and indeed he only was to blame. It is true, he had done a great deal with a little; but he apprehended, that with a little he could do all; and upon this erroneous principle he fought the battle of Colin, on the 18th day of June: a day, which throughout the Austrian dominions, is annually remembered by a solemn thanksgiving.

mies of the king of Prussia, were animated by the success of their allies, and now began to pour upon him on all sides. The savage Russians began to lay waste, with the most horrid acts of barbarity, the country they had entered; their cruelties reflect such infamy on their arms, that a hundred victories more famous than those of Peter the Great, will not be enough to wipe it off; nor were they during this campaign less cowardly than cruel; they were afraid to fairly oppose a handful of Prussians, commanded by an officer of reputation, assembled to watch and harass their motions. When the vile and horrid ravages of the enemy called aloud for vengeance, when the country was totally desolated to a considerable distance, by fire and sword, the Prussians could no longer forbear attempting to restrain such inhuman havoc; accordingly marshal Lehwald, who commanded the Prussian troops in this country, was directed by the king, to give battle to the enemy; who were no sooner advised of this intention, than they began to intrench themselves with the utmost strength and assiduity; the Prussians, who did not exceed 30,000 men, found them at a place called Norkitten, and early in the morning, on the 30th of August, they attacked these defences with their usual vigour; the king of Sweden's brother at the head of the Prussian dragoons, found means to attack the Russian cavalry, and he almost routed them; marshal Lehwald, after a considerable loss, forced the enemy from the first intrenchment, but finding there was a second, defended by at least two hundred pieces of cannon, he thought it would be imprudent to attempt that with such a handful of men, and therefore determined to draw off, for which the King of Prussia never forgave him; he retreated to his former camp at Vehlau, without suffering the least molestation; the Russians remained in theirs at Norkitten, and next day, there was little
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or no marks of a battle having been fought there, except a few of the slain which were unburied. The armies continued in this state of inactivity till the 13th of September, when the Russians finding it impossible, by reason of their own ravages, to subsist in the country any longer, began a sudden and speedy retreat out of the Prussian territories, to the great surprize, of not only the Prussians, but of every court in Europe; even that of Petersburgh disavowed any knowledge of this unexpected motion: but in order to do justice to their allies, who complained of great injuries by this precipitate step, marshal Apraxin was put under an arrest, and directed to be conveyed as a prisoner to Petersburgh; but to the great disappointment of those, who expected that his trial would unveil this mysterious affair, he was taken ill at Narva, and there died of an apoplexy. The rapidity with which the Russians marched, hindered marshal Lehwald from harassing their retreat; therefore he turned his arms against the Swedes, who were augmented to 25,000 men, under the command of general Hamilton, and had taken several towns in the hither Pomerania. They retired on his approach, and he seized all the places which they had conquered, and at length drove them to Stralsund, which so lessened their numbers by fatigue, hunger, and desertion, that when they arrived thither, at the conclusion of the campaign, their army did not amount to half its original number. The Prussians being now in possession of all Pomerania, the dutchy of Mecklenburgh, which was the ally of Sweden, of course became exposed to their fury; the most severe exactions were made, and the most wanton barbarities committed; the Prussians by their behaviour to the poor Mecklenburghers, seemed to revenge the cruelties of the Russians; Lehwald would have prevented these miseries, had he not perceived the displeasure

pleasure of his master, which occasioned him to beg leave to resign, and his request being granted, he quitted the service with silent indignation.

The unweildy French army, incumbered with a vast quantity of baggage and useles mouths, as French armies always are, made for some time but a slow progress; it is true, they found many difficulties in marching over the rough, dismal and barren desarts, which lie between the Rhine and the Weser, but at length they approached this latter river, having obliged the duke of Cumberland to retreat as they advanced. His royal highness passed the river, and entered Hanover, which it was apprehended he could now defend, as the French army could not pass the Weser, which defends Hanover from these foreign attacks, without manifestly exposing themselves to his mercy; but from some unaccountable fatality, the French passed the Weser, in the night between the tenth and eleventh of July, without the loss of a single man. The duke of Cumberland retired to the village of Hastenbeck a few miles from Hamelin, to which place the marshal d'Etrées followed him. His royal Highness thought he had chosen so excellent a situation, that the French general could not act against him with his whole force; but he was deceived; M. d'Etrées had superior abilities; he canonaded the allies all day on the 25th, and threatened to attack their right, left and centre at the same time. On the 26th at daylight, the engagement began, which was maintained on the side of the allies with great bravery for several hours; but the French general, with superior numbers and skill, obliged them to abandon the field with the loss of about 1500 men. His own army suffered nearly the same, but he soon made them ample amends by taking the town of Hamelin, where he found a great number of brass cannon and mortars, and a vast deal of equipage belonging to the allied army. At this time,
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the French nation laboured under the same disadvantage which has often happened in England; the servants of the crown were in general, such as were obnoxious to the people; and if an honest man happened to be employed by these mercenaries, and did not turn villain as well as they, he was sure not to continue long in employ. How far this was d'Etrées's case, we do not pretend to affirm; it is certain that before he fought the battle of Hastenbeck, the marchioness de Pompadour, who entirely influenced the French councils, got him recalled; and the duke de Richelieu, who had been the principal instrument of her elevation, and perhaps excelled all the world in the mean and wicked arts of a professed courtier, to succeed him. Accordingly M. d'Etrées quitted the army when he was on the point of finishing his conquests, and marshal Richelieu took the command. The duke of Cumberland, instead of retreating directly to Magdebourg, where he might either have been joined or have been of most seasonable assistance to the king of Prussia, retired to Stade, where by the beginning of September, he was so cooped up with water on his flanks and rear, and the French in his front, that he was unable by his situation to retire, or by his strength to advance; therefore, he was reduced to the necessity of signing a convention with the French general, framed under the mediation of the king of Denmark; whereby his whole army, consisting of 38,000 men, were obliged to lay down their arms and disperse themselves. Soon after which his royal highness returned to London, where finding his conduct had not given satisfaction, he threw up all the places he held under the crown, and retired to Windsor. In the mean time, the French traversed the electorate of Hanover, and exacted the most rigorous contributions in every part; they plundered the royal palaces, and committed many barbarities.

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The army of the empire had, by this time, advanced into Saxony, and summoned the city of Leipzig. The king of Prussia, who had several times offered battle, to the grand Austrian army, which was more than double his number, but could never bring them to an action, now resolved to attack this army; and after making several feint motions, he, notwithstanding their endeavours to avoid him, brought his army opposite to them on the 4th of Nov. near the village of Rosbach, on the west side of the Sala, and about ten miles south from Halle in Upper Saxony, and there was a cannonade all day. The Prussians were not in the whole 25,000 men, and greatly fatigued by a considerable number of forced marches. The French troops, under the command of the prince de Soubise, are said to exceed 34,000, and the Imperialists, under the prince of Saxe-Hilbourghausen 20,000, all in health and vigour, except among the latter there were blended some recruits, who were raw and undisciplined, and others not well affected to the service. During the night, the French and Imperial generals took a resolution to give battle to the Prussian monarch; and on the 5th, at nine in the morning, they began to make the necessary preparations. The king, who perceived their intentions, made ready to give them a proper reception; he likewise harangued his soldiers by way of inspiring them with emulation, and promised them that their pay should be double from that time till they went into winter quarters. The French horse came on with great spirit, and for a little while fought bravely, but they could not withstand the Prussians, who acted with amazing ardor; they severely repulsed, and afterwards totally routed this body of cavalry; the rest of the enemy's combatants shared the same fate: the impetuosity of the Prussians was like a torrent that overwhelmed them with destruction: the Imperial infantry made but a

small resistance, the whole army was seized with a panic when they perceived the phrenzy of the Prussians, and precipitately quitted the field of battle; they left behind them about 3000 men slain and 6000 prisoners, 63 pieces of cannon and some colours; the loss of the Prussians was not 500 men; the fugitives were pursued until dark night, which alone preserved them from entire ruin.* The victory was so complete that it hardly wanted to be improved; the condition of the enemy was such that they were totally incapable of action; therefore the King of Prussia began to turn his arms and march directly to Silesia, where the situation of his affairs demanded his presence with the utmost haste: he had left Silesia defended by

* This victory was of the utmost consequence to the king of Prussia; for a little before he fought it, the whole state of his affairs seemed verging to utter ruin, and afterwards they began to put on a different face, and to emerge to better fortune, owing entirely to the importance of this victory; he had been invested on the north by Swedes and Russians, on the east and part of the south by the Austrians, and on the west and south, by the French and the army of the Empire; and such was the vicinity of those powerful armies, which did not in the whole amount to less than 360,000 men, that they were all of them at one time hovering on the skirts of his dominions, and some of them had actually penetrated so far, that their detached parties laid his capital under contributions. In this situation, hemmed in on every side by the most formidable league the world had ever seen, some might have thought it prudent if he had offered to submit; but will posterity think his numerous enemies deserve any honour if they had compelled him to it? Surrounded as he was, and obliged to make head against them all, it is not to be wondered at, that when he went through Leipzig to fight the army of the empire, he was, by continual fatigue, worn away to a skeleton: he could bring no other army to an action, and considering the inferiority of his numbers and the unwillingness of the Imperialists, there were none he was more likely to defeat. By this battle he got rid of the army of the empire on one side, and checked the progress of Marshal Richlieu on the other, who was advancing from Hanover towards Magdeburgh; the Russians had retired before, and the Swedes were at this time besieged in Stralsund, so that of his enemies who appeared so formidable in August, there were only Austrians left.

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the Prince of Bevern with only 26,000 men, who intrenched himself under the walls of Breslau with the greatest strength, forming what is called an impregnable camp, in which, by the King's orders, he was to wait the issue of events.

The Austrians, as soon as they heard he was gone in quest of the army of the empire, resolved to wrest Silesia out of his hands by some bold stroke, which they apprehended his absence would afford them opportunity to pursue without interruption. Accordingly on the 27th, general Nadaſti, a brave, vigilant, and indefatigable officer, laid siege to Schweidnitz, and he carried on the operation with such spirit and intrepidity, that though the garrison consisted of 4000 men, he forced them by his repeated attacks to surrender prisoners of war on the 11th of November; he undertook this enterprize with principally Bavarian troops, and he was no way sparing of their lives. It was just after this conquest that the Austrians were informed of the King of Prussia's success at Rosbach, upon which they apprehended he would be with them as soon as possible, therefore they found it necessary to make use of the interim to the best advantage whatever it cost; the present exigencies required vigorous measures. In this opinion they united their force and advanced to the intrenchments of the Prince of Bevern, where they overlooked the danger, by exaggerating the importance in forcing them; they did not trouble their heads about the number of cannon which on every side defended his inaccessible camp; they considered that by forcing him they should get Breslau, the capital of Silesia, but did not reflect on the number of men it would cost, and of course weaken their strength so necessary to keep Silesia. On the 22d. of November they advanced up to the intrenchments, and about noon made two violent and unsuccessful assaults; but the third, more intrepid than the former, forced the Prussians from the exterior lines, who thereupon retreated to others which they had made

interior. The Austrians perceiving this, and considering the prodigality of their slaughter all at once ceased the attack; during this suspension, the Prussians were seized with a chimera, apprehending their dernier intrenchments would be forced in the night, and therefore while the Austrian troops stood infatuated with surprise at having, as they thought, their work to do over again, the Prussians made use of that opportunity to abandon their intrenchments and retreat over the Oder, except a few that threw themselves into Breslau. The Austrian generals knew nothing of this sudden motion and were astonished when they found this strong hold evacuated. It is generally imagined the Prince of Bevern was ashamed to act in this injudicious manner, and was afraid to see the King of Prussia, more especially as his majesty had sent him orders not to quit the lines on any account for that he certainly should be with him by December; and therefore in the morning of the 24th, he went to reconnoitre the enemy without escort, attended only by a groom, and was taken prisoner by a party of the enemy's Croats. This circumstance was construed into a premeditated design, because it cannot be supposed that a man of his rank, a prince, a commander in chief, should undertake the dangerous task of reconnoitring attended by only one man, and that but a groom, supposing he had judged it necessary to see things with his own eyes. The loss of the Austrians in this affair was not less than the amount of the whole Prussian force; but that of the Prussians, as they were never put into confusion did not exceed 2800 men. The Austrians acknowledged that such another dear bought victory would destroy their whole army. On the 25th they summoned Breslau, and the garrison surrendered on condition of not serving against the Austrians or their allies for two years. The King, as soon as he heard of these disasters, redoubled his efforts of speed towards Silesia; he reached

ed Parchwitz, near Breslau, on the 2d of December, and joined his troops late commanded by the Prince of Bevern. The Austrians, who occupied the strong camp of the Prussians, left it as soon as they heard the King was advancing to give them battle, which they resolved to accept, and therefore began their march to meet him; but they halted at the village of Leuthen near Lissa, and though they did not intrench themselves, they felled great quantities of wood and scattered them in their front, in order to make it impossible for the Prussians to act with regularity. On the 5th of December the king of Prussia came up to their camp, which was defended by a numerous artillery placed on several very advantageous eminences. He attacked the advanced corps of the Austrians and cut them to pieces, also another corps who intended to take him in flank. The armies now came in sight of each other, and an obstinate and bloody conflict began; the Prussian artillery made terrible havock; it happened to be placed in such a situation as to take the enemy in flank, and it mowed them down in scores, the King's infantry behaved with the utmost intrepidity and his cavalry with the most astonishing fury. The Austrians made a brave resistance, but they were obliged to give way; yet for some time they disputed the ground inch by inch; at length, finding they could not withstand the impetuosity of the Prussians, they fell into confusion, and fled from the field in all the agonies of madness and despair; the officers ran one way and the private men another; the commanders never thought of rallying the troops but of saving themselves. The King pursued them to Lissa. 6000 Austrians were slain, 15000 made prisoners, and 200 pieces of cannon were taken. Before the battle, the Austrian army is said to have exceeded 70,000 men, but that of the Prussians did not amount to 40,000 men, who were greatly fatigued by a forced march of 200 miles. Notwithstanding the
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rigour of the season was set in, the King of Prussia invested Breslau, though defended by a garrison of 13,000 men, and compelled it to surrender by the 29th of December; the garrison were made prisoners of war. The King having reconquered all Silesia, except Schweidnitz, he penetrated before the end of the year into the Austrian division, and reduced several towns there, which so augmented the number of his prisoners, that before New-year's-day they by far exceeded the number of his whole army.

The king of Prussia's victory at Rossbach, not only prevented the French from pursuing their design of entering Magdebourg, but also revived the spirits of the Hanoverians and Hessians, and encouraged them to resume their arms. Richlieu, the French general, had behaved in the most cruel and infamous manner in many places; where it was impossible to raise the contributions demanded, the soldiers were allowed to plunder, with their usual methods of barbarity, and attempts had been made to take away the arms from the Hanoverian and Hessian troops. These open violations of the convention, unbound the hands of their enemies, and as soon as the king of Prussia had gained the battle of Rossbach, it was resolved to re-assemble the allied army; and the king of Prussia for this purpose, furnished a general, which was prince Ferdinand of Brunswick, brother to the duke of Brunswick, and an officer in his own army. The first operation which they undertook, was the reduction of the town and castle of Harbourg; the town was easily mastered, but the castle sustained a vigorous siege; at length it surrendered.

The British affairs in America this year still teemed with misfortunes and disgrace, not a little owing to our late political divisions, unsteadiness and languor; the attack on Crown-point, which had been the principal object in the beginning, was now laid aside; the French were entire masters of all the Lakes, and had
nothing

nothing to prevent their collecting the Indians together against us: our fears did more in behalf of the French, than the French could have done for themselves: we abandoned the Iroquois, who were once our allies, and might have been preserved, and the whole country to the enemy, and thus without one native in alliance, our whole frontiers were exposed to their incursions. Instead of attacking Crown-point it was judged of more importance to go against Louisbourg; accordingly, lord Loudon assembled the troops under his command at Halifax in Nova-Scotia; he found here admiral Holborn just arrived from Europe with seventeen ships of the line and a number of troops, which with those his lordship had brought, amounted in the whole to above 11000 men; but from some unaccountable cause, it was July when they arrived at Halifax, and what is still more mysterious, they spent a month in holding of councils, and at last came to a resolution that it was too late to do any thing. The French did not act upon a supine negligent and dilatory plan; at the beginning of the year they were apprized of our designs and they sent a strong squadron to Louisbourg, which reached the harbour before it was well free of the ice; in a little time they sent two other strong squadrons with a large supply of troops, ammunition, provisions, &c. so that the troops, natives and Indians bearing arms, at the time it was going to be attacked, did not amount to less than 10,000 men, and the fleet in the harbour was superior to admiral Holborn's. When the resolution was taken to defer the attack, lord Loudon with the troops returned to New-York, and admiral Holborn went to cruize at the mouth of Louisbourg harbour; but what end this was to answer we shall not pretend to discover; nobody surely can imagine that the French admiral, who had no occasion to fight in order to protect Louisbourg, would come out and bring on an unnecessary

cessary battle: however, the British squadron continued on this station until the 25th of September, when a most terrible storm arose and dispersed them different ways, wrecked one, dismasted eleven, and so shattered the rest, that many found great difficulty in getting home. No sooner was lord Loudon gone on the Louisbourg expedition, than M. de Montcalm collected the French forces together and resolved to attack fort Wm. Henry, which being situated near Lake-George, defended part of our frontiers; he brought 8000 men with a numerous artillery before the place; the garrison consisted of 2500 men, commanded by col. Monro; and general Webb with 4000 men lay at no great distance from the fort, but he was an indifferent spectator of Montcalm's operations. The French officer prosecuted the siege with vigour, and Monro bravely defended the place, until his ammunition was spent, and many of his guns were burst; nay, he even persisted in the honourable discharge of his important trust after prudence dictated he ought to surrender, hoping that general Webb, though slow, would at length either oblige the enemy to raise the siege, or force some ammunition into the place; but disappointed in these hopes, compelled by necessity, and ordered by a letter from the general, which Montcalm sent into the fort, he surrendered on the 9th day of August, after a siege of six days. By the capitulation, the garrison were not to serve for eighteen months: when they marched out of the fort the French Indians massacred several of them and committed many horrid barbarities, under the countenance of the French general; but what is more surprising, that 2000 men, with arms in their hands, permitted the savages to exercise their wanton cruelties unmolested; the fort was demolished, and Montcalm returned to Canada. Thus we with a prodigious superiority in America this year, did nothing; was it not owing to the incapacity
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and pusillanimity of the foul dregs of a former M——— ?

In Asia we had better success; but this must be entirely attributed to the vigilance, prudence and courage of some good officers, who were at too great a distance to receive orders from those unsteady men, who still preserved great influence and formed irresolute C———s. The company's disputes with the Nabob of Bengal, the rise of which we have already explained, were terminated to their great advantage by Admiral Watson and Col. Clive. After they had reduced the fort of Busbudgia, they proceeded to Hughley, up the Ganges, and reduced that also, because the Nabob refused to come to terms, which they offered to him in the most polite and civil manner at the close of the last year; but he was too haughty to think of treating, and yet he was afraid of the British power. To conceal his terror he made a motion with his army towards Calcutta, upon which colonel Clive, determined to give him battle in his camp, and on the 5th of February he forced the Nabob from all his posts, though defended by between 40 and 50,000 men. This risk, seconded by a letter from admiral Watson, intimating that this was a specimen only of what the British arms, when provoked, could perform, perfectly answered the intention of bringing about a pacification, for in four days a treaty of peace was signed, by which the English East-India company were established in all their former privileges, an immunity for all taxes was granted, and a restitution promised for all that the trade had suffered in the taking of Calcutta. As this treaty was in a manner extorted from him, he never intended to fulfil the conditions; moreover, his principal counsellors were in the interest of the French, who were continually gratifying them with presents, hoping by that means to embarrass the English. The day after this treaty was signed, admiral Watson

and col. Clive received advice that war had been declared in Europe between the English and French : this of course opened a new scene, and these brave officers, who had the honour and interest of their country at heart, immediately resolved on attacking the French fort of Chandenagore, situated higher up the river than Calcutta. On the 24th of March, after a siege of four days, this place was reduced, though the strongest and principal settlement the French had in Bengal; 183 pieces of cannon were found in it, and 500 Europeans and 700 Blacks were made prisoners. There being no longer any thing to apprehend from the French power in this part, it fell under consideration how they should act with regard to the Nabob, who had from time to time, upon frivolous pretences deferred to execute the articles of the treaty, he was every day more inconstant and insolent. Some time was taken up in those deliberations; they were afraid to precipitate war with him, lest it should be fatal in its consequences; and yet his conduct justified such a step. But in the midst of these perplexities, a ray of hope unexpectedly appeared. The severity and fickle disposition of the Nabob, spread a terror among those about him; they did not think themselves safe in the power of such a man, and they began to think of depriving him of his power because he abused it. Among these was one of great interest and authority, named Laitty; he put himself at the head of this conspiracy, and communicated their designs to the English; but Meer Jaffier Aly Cawn, a general of the Nabob's army, joining the number, it was thought proper to conclude a treaty with these conspirators, upon the basis of the former with the Nabob, before the English took the field for their assistance, and in their own justification and defence; for the English, by these conspirators, had certain knowledge that the Nabob shortly intended to attack them.

them. In this treaty, nothing was omitted that might put the company's affairs for the future upon a firm and stable establishment; and it was also agreed that Meer Jaffier should be appointed Nabob. Every thing being now ready, colonel Clive began his march to Plaissy on the Ganges, and took post on a very advantageous ground. On the 22d of June, the Nabob's army approached and gave him battle with near 40,000 men and 40 pieces of cannon; but half of the troops, who were under the command of Jaffier Aly Cawn and other conspirators, were inactive. The Nabob knew not how to invest col. Clive's intrenchments; and the colonel taking the advantage of his ignorance, totally defeated him with very little loss among his own troops. Meer Jaffier now declared himself, and congratulated Mr. Clive on his victory. The Nabob fled to Muxadavad, his capital, with a few of his attendants who continued faithful. Meer Jaffier entered the city while it was in consternation by the advice of Mr. Clive, and was by this gallant officer placed in the ancient seat of the Nabobs, where he received the homage of all ranks of people. The deposed Nabob wandered about an unfortunate fugitive, pursued by his enemies, in the utmost distress, with hardly cloaths to his back, and till worn out with hunger and fatigue; he at length took refuge in the house of a man whose ears he had caused to be cut off in one of the transports of his passion; this person delivered him up to his pursuers, and Jaffier Aly Cawn's son ordered him to be put to death. In about thirteen days this great revolution was accomplished, with a small force and very little loss, and the India company gained such a number of valuable advantages as exceeded the expectation of the most sanguine wish.

At home our attention was so much taken up with the Germanic warfare, that a vast and powerful fleet was equipped to be employed subservient to its capricious system; a body of troops, amounting to 9000 men,

under the command of Sir John Mordaunt, were put on board it. The destination was kept a profound secret; and whilst it exercised the penetration of all the politicians in Europe, it filled France with the most serious alarms. The design was to make a diversion in favour of the duke of Cumberland, by drawing a part of the French army from Westphalia and Hanover, to the defence of their own coast. After much time spent in making preparations, and several blundering delays, the fleet, under the command of admiral Hawke, sailed on the eighth of September, the day on which the convention of Closter-Seven was signed. On the 21st the fleet appeared before Rochfort, and it was now known that they intended to attack it; but as the officers had laid down no plan to be followed in this enterprize, some time was taken up in debating and framing one; at length it was resolved to secure the little island of Aix, situated in the mouth of the river Charente, leading up to Rochfort; from whence they apprehended there might be some obstruction to their landing; captain Howe in the *Magnanime*, reduced the island on the 23d. Still the officers kept debating and consuming time in pernicious deliberations. Sir Edward Hawke, proposed laying a sixty gun ship against fort Fouras, which it was thought would secure the landing of the troops; but admiral Knowles, who sounded the coast, declared there was no channel by which even a bomb-ketch could approach it; and the military officers would not attack it by land, though it was the weakest on that side, and there were two landing places at a small distance from it. Thus was time suffered to elapse and nothing done, while the fleet lay within sight of the enemy, and of course so effectually alarmed them as to make them to provide every thing as fast as possible for their defence. On the 28th, it was resolved to land the troops that night, in order to attack the forts on the Charente. The troops were

were in the boats at the appointed time, and every thing was ready, but resolution in the———s; that alone was wanting. They now took into consideration the badness of the coast, the danger of landing, the time they had given the enemy to put every place in a posture of defence; and above all, two encampments of militia, which they had descried the day before; which force had been collected since they appeared off the coast, for there were no such thing at first; therefore they resolved to defer the landing until morning, and the troops were ordered back to their respective ships. On the 30th a resolution was taken to return to England, without doing any thing further; and on the sixth of October, the fleet arrived at St. Helen's. When this armament departed from England, it carried such an air of conquest, that its return without effecting any thing but the demolition of the little fort at Aix, appeared so much below the conception of the people, that they compared it to the mountain in labour which brought forth a mouse; nothing could exceed the general discontent: many of the officers blamed the ministers in the plan of the expedition; the ministers, and with them the public voice, exclaimed against the execution. The cause of its failure, was ordered to be searched into by a *board of enquiry*; who seemed to censure the commander of the land forces; but a court-martial acquitted him. This expedition cost the nation near a million of money; the whole summer was employed in making preparations for it; and at last it only served to embitter our dissensions, without affording the least favour to that cause for which it was undertaken. *

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* The beginning of this year was marked by an event that surprised all Europe; an attempt was made to assassinate the French king, while he was stepping into his coach at Versailles,
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On the first of December the parliament met, and unanimously voted 60,000 men for the sea service, and 54,000 men for the land service of Great-Britain. The supplies amounted to the astonishing sum of 10,486,457*l*. A great part of this treasure was liberally bestowed upon our German allies, whom we generously paid for fighting their *own* battle, particularly 1,861,897*l*. expressly assigned for the support of our continental mercenaries: this latter sum exceeded the whole revenue of Charles II. At this time the partizans of the court were at great pains to inculcate a belief that the war in Germany was supported as a necessary diversion in favour of our own war in America, which while it employed the French power in Germany, prevented its being sent to their plantations, or making invasions on this island. The absurdity of this notion will appear to those who consider that the ports of France were blocked up by the British navy, that Great-Britain was sole mistress of the sea, and that the French commerce was extinguished, and their mariners in British prisons; how then could they send reinforcements to their distant settlements? Will not those who consider this say, had but half that money which was annually ingulphed in Germany, been expended in *vigorously exerting* our naval strength, the French would not have had, at the conclusion of the reign, one single settlement out of Europe. But what sort of a diversion is this, which

by one Damien, an obscure fanatic, who, mingling among the king's attendants, stabbed him on the right side, between the fourth and fifth ribs, with a knife, which taking an oblique direction missed the vital parts. He was secured, and the most excruciating torments were applied, in order to extort from him a confession of reasons that induced him to commit this horrid attempt; but all that could be done, discovered nothing, and he died a remarkable instance of insanity. This year was likewise distinguished in France, by a change in the ministry, by which the duke de Belleisle, was appointed secretary at war.

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obliges us to raise and hire fresh troops, while France is employing only its own standing army to repel it? to send fewer troops and horses at double the expence, to act against a greater number of French? It is a diversion of English treasures, not of French troops. By a diversion every body understands, the turning of the war from one part, where one would not have it go, to another part where we have less to fear from it: but we have most to fear from Germany, because it destroys our men and money. The French have no employ for their standing army except in Germany: they may, if they please, march them down to their coast, but they have not ships to transport them any where; and if they had, our fleets are continually at hand to intercept them. However, in order to make this German war popular, our understandings were insulted with a tale, that the Protestant religion was in danger; the importance of Germany and our allies were rung like changes in our ears: none were allowed to exercise their own reason; they were to be dazzled with the necessity for defending Hanover, and supporting the king of Prussia *. In a little time this mighty work was brought about; the people of this nation discovered such an affection for their German friends, that they were ready to assist them with their lives and for-

* They were taught to consider this monarch, as the hero of the age, and the champion of Protestantism; nay, even to look upon him as their second king and defender of faith, to drink his health as cordially as if they had been born at Berlin, and to make the most extravagant and riotous rejoicings on his birth-day; to make Prussian caps for their ladies to look fine in, and Prussian purl for the mob to get drunk with. Now, will it be believed that this is the man, who in all his actions, has shewn a neglect of all moral obligation, and in his writings a contempt of every religious principle; who has in his court spoke of king George II. in the most disrespectful terms, and penned memorials which were appeals to the people against our government?

tunes. While this vein subsisted, it was, that the second treaty, signed on the 11th of April 1758, was made with the king of Prussia, stipulating that we should pay him annually 670,000*l.* which was to be employed for the good of the common cause. What this common cause is, he is left at liberty to interpret for his own convenience. The common cause of two parties who have no common enemy, is hard to be determined. We are not at war with the house of Austria, nor is he heartily with France. This treaty does not order that he shall send one man to our assistance; it only directs, that he shall make use of the money in raising troops and strengthening himself: what is this but paying him for fighting his own battles? but giving our money because he wants it? As this treaty was approved by parliament, and the money granted to make good the engagement, we shall consider it as an event sufficient to eclipse every other during the session, which ended on the 9th of June 1758.

During the winter, the king of Prussia levied in Saxony the most heavy contributions; the unfortunate city of Leipzig, because it was unable to pay these cruel exactions, was punished with military execution. It is a pain to recount his barbarities; it is sufficient to say that every act that could be devised to distress the inhabitants was executed. Mecklenburgh was plundered, and its duke obliged to fly to Lubeck. The established faith of both these States is protestantism, and both of them have distinguished themselves in its defence: how then is this conduct to be reconciled to his character, assuming the title of protector of the protestant religion? As soon as the season would permit, he undertook the siege of Schweidnitz, and on the 16th of April obliged it to surrender. He was now once more in possession of all Silesia. His next consideration was to act offensively in the Austrian territories. Count Daun, with the Austrian

Austrian army re-assembled and recruited at this time was encamped at Koningsgratz, in Bohemia. His Prussian majesty made several feints, in order to deceive the Austrian general, whom at length he filled with an idea that he intended to come and give him battle, upon which Daun began to entrench himself: in the interim the king of Prussia made a most rapid march into Moravia, and had laid siege to Olmutz, the capital, before Daun had heard any thing further of him. It happened that M. Marshal was posted in Moravia with 12,000 men, and that he had just time enough to throw himself into the place, before the king of Prussia invested it, otherwise that monarch would have taken it by escalade. The siege was opened on the 27th of May, and the operations were carried on with great vigour till M. Daun arrived to its relief; he chose such a situation as sufficiently embarrassed the king of Prussia, and in the end disconcerted his measures. The king would have given him battle, but he would not accept of it, he considered such a step as too hazardous, and therefore resolved to act on a more certain plan. As the country was protected by the Austrian army, the king of Prussia was obliged to draw his subsistence from Silesia, which Daun by his situation had already rendered difficult and dangerous. This general had intelligence that there was a large convoy on the road, coming to the Prussian camp, upon which he detached a considerable corps, which successfully attacked the convoy, and took it. This was a terrible mortification to the king of Prussia; the city of Olmutz was ready to drop into his hands, but his army were without provisions. In this condition the necessity of getting subsistence for his troops, compelled him to raise the siege, which he did on the first day of July, and began his march for Bohemia. The Austrian cavalry, during this retreat, hovered on his flanks, in order to harass him, but their attempts did

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not disturb his progress. In Bohemia he made ample amends for the loss of his convoy, by seizing the Austrian magazines; but the Russians having advanced into the New Marche of Brandenburg, and already laid siege to Custrin, his presence in this country became of the utmost importance to check their further proceedings; therefore he advanced through Silesia, raised the siege of Custrin, and fought the Russian army, commanded by the generals Fermor and Brown, on the 25th of August, near the village of Zorndorff. The ravages of the Russians of which the country presented a miserable spectacle, animated the Prussians to the warmest desire of revenge, but this spirit seemed to have quitted them in one of the critical minutes of the battle. The Russians, though galled with perhaps the heaviest fire of artillery that ever was seen, made so vigorous a charge on the Prussian infantry, as threw it into disorder, and forced it to retreat: had the Russians known how to make use of this advantage, they had gained the victory; but by their ignorance they lost it; had they thrown their cavalry into this chasm, they had effectually disconcerted the whole Prussian army; as it was, the king of Prussia remedied the misfortune; general Seidlitz collected his cavalry, and furiously attacked the Russian foot, which had advanced uncovered to pursue their advantage, and made a terrible slaughter amongst them; this corps being repulsed in its turn, threw the whole Russian army into the utmost confusion, in which for some time they increased their own destruction, by firing on one another; yet in this state of distraction they did not give ground, and the Prussians continued the work of carnage till night, when the Russians retreated to a small distance, and recovered of their disorder, though their loss, according to their own account, was 21,529 men, two thirds of which number were slain; next day they retreated, and he pursued them
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as far as Poland, which prevented them undertaking any thing further against him this year. In the mean time, the Austrians and Imperialists were wresting Saxony out of his hands: M. Daun had taken the fortrefs of Sonnestein, and in conjunction with the army of the Empire, now commanded by the duke de Deux Ponts, almost furrounded the quarters of prince Henry of Prussia, who was encamped at Dippolswade with 20,000 men, so as to cover Dresden. The king was no sooner informed of these circumstances, than he began his march with the utmost expedition, for the relief of his brother; and on the 11th of September, this junction was effected, which disconcerted the plan of M. Daun, and obliged him to fall back as far as Zittau. The king, however, separated from his brother, and shewed a design to cut off Daun's communication with Bohemia; while Daun shewed an intention to cut off his with Silesia; a battle in this case seemed inevitable, and Daun resolved to bring it on as soon as possible, lest the time for action should be lost, and he obliged to evacuate Saxony, and so doing give up all the fruits of the campaign. The king of Prussia, was at this time, encamped at Hockirchen, a village in Lusatia. On the 14th of October, in the middle of a very dark night, Daun marched to the Prussian camp, and at five o'clock in the morning, his whole army began the attack with the utmost regularity and intrepidity. The Prussians were entirely surpris'd; this sudden and unexpected attack, threw them into confusion: some generals who were first alarmed, made a gallant resistance; among these was marshal Keith, who amidst the horrors of darkness, carnage and despair, maintained a most desperate and bloody conflict, for at least three hours; during which, he three times gained possession of the village of Hockirchen, but he was every time obliged to abandon it, by a prodigious superiority;

at length he received a shot in his breast, which killed him on the spot. Prince Francis of Brunswick, the king's brother, met with the same fate. Whilst M. Keith, was heading the right wing of the Prussians, against the flower of the Austrian army, M. Daun, made several feint attacks on the king, who commanded on the left, to prevent his reinforcing his right; but he made no impression; the Prussians here were in proper order: unfortunately, on the right where they were first surprized, they were greatly embarrassed by their standing tents, which they had not time to strike; therefore the Austrians continued their impetuosity on this quarter, and that occasioned the scene of action, to be principally confined to it. About nine o'clock, when all the efforts of the Prussians to oppose the progress of the Austrians had failed, the king resolved on a retreat, which he effected in tolerable order, by the good countenance of his cavalry, and the heavy fire of his artillery; his loss in this affair amounted to at least 7000 men; and that of the Austrians was not less than 5000; the death of marshal Keith, was to him, the most severe loss; he could repair all the rest, but there were none in his service equal to Keith. Had he followed the advice of this officer, the day before the battle, he had not been surprized: Keith, disapproved of the disposition, and remonstrated with the King upon it, but the latter was obstinate. The King suffered considerably in his reputation, by permitting himself to be surprized. The advantage which M. Daun, proposed to derive from this victory, was, the being enabled to cover the operations of lesser armies in Silesia; the siege of Neiss, which had been some time formed, was now vigorously prosecuted, and a blockade was thrown round Cosel. The king of Prussia drew several reinforcements from Prince Henry's army in Saxony; and by several masterly

masterly movements, he opened his passage into Silesia, which crushed in a moment all Daun's boasted profits: the siege of Neiss and the blockade of Cosel were raised on the first of November, and the Austrians, precipitately abandoned all Silesia. When M. Daun found he could no longer hinder the King from entering into Silesia, he resolved to turn his own thoughts towards Saxony, and attempt the taking of Dresden: this fortress had a Prussian garrison of 12,000 men, commanded by count Schmettau, and was covered by an army, commanded by prince Henry of Prussia, which had been formed in the spring, and had lain in the neighbourhood ever since to protect Saxony and command the course of the Elbe. M. Daun approached Dresden on the eighth of November, and shewed a design of taking the place by a coup de main; a party of light troops, shortly attacked the suburbs and drove out the Prussians. The city being but meanly fortified, and the governor perceiving the enemy's design, in which if they succeeded on the suburbs, they might command the ramparts of the city, and render its reduction equally easy and certain, was, by these considerations, determined to set fire to the suburbs, which was accordingly done next morning, and 250 houses were consumed, the inhabitants of which, lost their all, and some their lives: this was a terrible extremity, and was considered by many courts in Europe, as a horrid act of cruelty. Daun saw this fire with surprise; it rendered a coup de main impracticable, and regular approaches demanded more time than he could employ, because the king of Prussia was in full march towards Saxony. On the 20th that monarch arrived in the neighbourhood of Dresden, and three days before the Austrian army and that of the empire, retreated into Bohemia, where they went into quarters. The Swedes made some ineffectual efforts to gain possession of Pomerania; for a while, they
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were successful, but they were afterwards compelled to relinquish what they had got.

As soon as Prince Ferdinand, with the Hanoverians, had taken Harburgh, he advanced into the country of Bremen and dislodged the enemy from all the towns there. The duke de Richelieu, finding he could not stop the progress of the allies, was stimulated to commit the most unparalleled acts of wanton and unprovoked barbarity; among these, was the burning the orphan house at Zell, while the people were in it, and other deeds of rapine and oppression: The French ministry were dissatisfied with his conduct, and therefore recalled him, and gave the command of the army to the count de Clermont; this was the third commander which the French army had in one year; a circumstance which sufficiently evinces the unsteadiness of their councils. Clermont found the troops in a most miserable condition; the winter excursions, want of necessaries, hard duty, severe weather and distempers, had reduced them to a wretched remnant; they abandoned the cities of Hanover and Zell and retired towards Hamelen: the town of Hoya upon the Weser was taken by surprise, by the hereditary prince of Brunswick, who had voluntarily entered into the army, in which he has frequently signalized himself; but this was his first exploit. After the taking of Hoya, Clermont retreated to the Rhine, and having passed that river, he intrenched his army until he should receive reinforcements from France. The town of Embden, belonging to the king of Prussia, situated on the river Ems, next the sea, of which the French had been in possession some time, was now taken by an English squadron, commanded by commodore Holmes; the French garrison evacuating the place: it has since been a port to land the British troops at; who have since, from time to time been sent to reinforce the allies, and perhaps it was taken with that view.

view. Prince Ferdinand, followed the count de Clermont to the Rhine; and having passed that river, he took his measures so well, that he found means to attack the enemy's left wing at Crevelt on the 23d of June, which he routed and dispersed after a short dispute, in which the French lost, in slain and prisoners, between 4 and 5000 men.* Clermont, having collected the fugitives, retired and took refuge under the cannon of Cologne; where he was a tame spectator, of the reduction of Dusseldorp, by the allies. However, the conquerors derived no kind of advantage from their victory: it seemed to have been only fought, for the sake of displaying the genius of the general. The French army, being on their own frontiers, were soon reinforced; and another army was assembled at the other side of the Rhine, under the command of the prince de Soubise. Measures were then taken in England for reinforcing the allied army, and a corps under the duke of Marlborough was landed at Embden for that purpose. At this time, the count de Clermont resigned his command, which was conferred on M. Contades, who threatened to attack prince Ferdinand in his turn; but the prince resolved to lie quiet, until he should be joined by the British troops: he flattered himself, that the Hessian troops, commanded by the prince of Isenbourg, would prevent Soubise from entering Hesse, until he received the reinforcement, when he

* In the army of the allies, was a small body of Prussian troops; sent as we may presume, to assist the troops in British pay, to frustrate the designs of France, and repel her attacks on Hanover; in consideration of our granting that monarch an immense subsidy. It is said two regiments of cavalry belonging to the Prussian corps, refused to charge the French in this action; and thereby lost the most favourable opportunity the allies ever had of defeating the enemy. This piece of intelligence, was industriously smothered in England, for fear it should tend to make the German war unpopular.

purposed to transfer the seat of war into the enemy's country; but the duke de Broglie, who was detached by the prince de Soubise, attacked and defeated the prince of Isenbourg, on the 23d of July, at Sangerhausen, and thereby not only opened a passage for the French troops into Westphalia, but likewise gave them possession of the Weser; advantages, which more than counterbalanced those which prince Ferdinand had gained by his action at Crevelt: this prince now began to think of repassing the Rhine in order to effect his junction with the duke of Marlborough, which he had reason to apprehend the prince of Soubise would endeavour to prevent. M. de Chevert, an able French general, had passed the Rhine with 12,000 men, in order to besiege Duffeldorp; but finding that impracticable by the late heavy rains, he resolved to dislodge baron Imhoff, an Hanoverian officer, who was posted with 3000 men at Meer, to cover the bridge over the Rhine at Rees, to secure a considerable magazine there, and preserve the communication between prince Ferdinand and the duke of Marlborough: Chevert's design was to seize the magazine, burn the bridge, and cut off the English troops; and with this view he attacked Imhoff, on the fifth of August; but this officer having notice of his intentions, had taken his measures so well, that in half hour he repulsed the French officer with loss, and obliged him to retire under the cannon of Wesel. This little victory was productive of great advantage to the allies: Imhoff quitted his post at Meer, and marched to meet the duke of Marlborough, with whom he happily effected a junction, which had hitherto been attended with many difficulties. Prince Ferdinand without any difficulty repassed the Rhine, and drew nearer to the prince of Isenbourg; and that prince collected all his fugitives and began to recover from his disorder; but Gottengen was, in the mean time, reduced by the prince de Soubise; who, perceiving

ceiving the Hessians reassembling, shewed a design of attacking them again ; upon which prince Ferdinand, detached general Oberg, with 13,000 men, to reinforce them and take the command of the whole : however, they were still greatly inferior to Soubise's army, which unexpectedly attacked them on the last day of September, at Llanwerhagen in Hesse, and defeated them with the loss of 1500 men : as they effected a retreat in tolerable order, their defeat was not total ; nor could Soubise reap any advantage from the victory, as the season was too far advanced. Prince Ferdinand, had by this time retired into Westphalia, into which country Contades followed him, and both armies took up their winter quarters in it. The divers operations of this campaign, exercised the abilities of all the generals, and fully proved that this land war against France, is not only on a defensive plan, but carried on an enormous expence to England. We see that when the French army was defeated, it was quickly reinforced at an easy expence, and obliged the allies in their turn to retire. This is killing men and expending money, without reaping any solid advantage. The French, by marching into Germany, and making a diversion there of our blood and treasure, prevent our whole force from being exerted against them in other parts of the globe, where we might affect the sinews of their existence. The fatigues of the campaign, occasioned a fever to break out and rage among the allied troops, which carried off great numbers ; of the English in particular, because they were not accustomed to the climate and diet ; nor indeed, enjoyed any benefits which their German friends could deprive them of, though they were come to lay down their lives in their defence. This fatality cut off the duke of Marlborough at Munster ; the numbers of private men, which were carried off by the same cause, were perhaps concealed for reasons of state ; because, in a

government like ours, where things depend so much on popularity, any intelligence, which tends to render odious a favourite cause, are for the most part industriously hid ; yet the death of a great man, when he amounts to a commander in chief, cannot be concealed. The command devolved upon lord George Sackville.

The French, finding their power in the East-Indies, not sufficient to cope with the English, sent thither a squadron of men of war, under the command of M. d'Apche, on board of which, was embarked 8000 troops, commanded by M. Lally. The British ministry, to prevent any material advantages flowing from this additional strength, dispatched a fleet on the same destination, and about the same force, under the command of commodore Steevens. The first of Lally's operations were against fort St. David, on the coast of Coromandel ; which he took and destroyed in April 1758. During the time of this attack, the French squadron amounting to nine ships, lying off the fort, were engaged by admiral Pococke and commodore Steevens ; but some of the British captains behaving in a timid manner, exposed these gallant officers to a very unequal combat : the action began in the afternoon, and lasted until night ; when the fleets separated, the French sailed to Pondicherry, and the English to Madras. The finances of France, were so extremely low, when Lally was sent to the East-Indies, that the ministry could not afford to give him any money, to defray any expences necessarily incurred by his operations : therefore, to remove this difficulty, he resolved to apply to the king of Tanjour, a prince of the country, for a grant of a considerable sum ; but his request being refused, he was so exasperated as to lay siege to the monarch's capital ; from which the want of provisions, and the skill of some English engineers, who served in the place, soon compelled to retire. In
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the mean time admiral Pococke, having refitted his squadron, failed in quest of the French fleet, which lay near Pondicherry; but on his appearance they ran away, and he pursued them: on the third of August, he came up with them, and began a second engagement, but as it was only a running fight, it was productive of no advantage, and in the night the French got back into Pondicherry road, where they were protected by the cannon of the place.

In America, the beam of glory shone on the British arms, with a lustre that had been hitherto unknown. Those divisions at home, which had been so long prevalent were now subsided, and the new patriot ministry, being by this time established, resolved on vigorous measures. They determined to take Louisbourg; and in order to make use of the season, and to be before-hand with the enemy, in attacking it before they had time to reinforce it, admiral Boscawen, with a strong squadron departed from Spithead, in the month of February; he proceeded to Halifax in Nova-Scotia, where, receiving some additional strength, he appeared on the second of June, off Louisbourg; having on board his ships, 14,000 land forces, commanded by the generals Amherst and Wolfe. The prodigious surf, which swelled along the shore, prevented their landing until the eighth, when the intrepid Wolfe, with a body of men, put off to shore, and landed in the face of the enemy's discharges of cannon and musquetry; drove them away, by which the rest of the troops were landed without opposition. The operations of the siege were begun as early as possible, and as soon as a few difficulties were overcome, were carried on with great vigour; but there being five French men of war in the harbour, who might disturb the besiegers, general Wolfe erected a battery against them, and had the good fortune to burn three of them, and to silence a small fort, which commands the harbour

called the Island battery. When these two services were performed, admiral Boscawen, who had remained all this while out of the harbour, resolved to gain possession of it, and for this purpose, he sent in six hundred seamen, under the direction of Capt. Laforey, to take or burn the other two ships; this gallant officer took one and towed her off, and the other he set on fire; this stroke was decisive, for next day, July the 26th, the town surrendered, and the garrison and seamen amounting to 5,600, were made prisoners. In a few days after the Island of St. John, and other appendages surrendered to the British arms. As it was intended to extend these valuable conquests, and perfectly secure that property, for which the war was undertaken, it was deemed unnecessary to hold this place in expensive possession, and therefore the fortifications of Louisbourg, were in a little time totally demolished. While this gem was adding to the British crown, general Abercrombie (lord Loudon having been recalled, his conduct not being so satisfactory as might have been expected from an officer of his reputation) intended to reduce the forts of Ticonderago and Crown Point, which were contiguous to each other, in order to open an easy passage into Canada; he passed lake George with 16,000 troops, and a numerous artillery, and advanced towards Ticonderago; the guides being unskilful, the troops were bewildered in the woods, and parties of the enemies hovered about them; with one of which, consisting of French and Indians, a skirmish happened in which the gallant and sincerely beloved lord Howe was killed. On the 8th of July, they appeared before the fort, which was secured in front by a retrenchment; this being reconnoitered, it was reported that it might be taken with musquetry, and in consequence of this report, it was resolved not to wait for the cannon, which was not yet come up, but attack it immediately; by this rashness the attempt

attempt miscarried; the troops advanced to the lines, and were for four hours exposed to a terrible fire; they attacked the French sword in hand, in the most resolute manner, and had so discomfited them, by this astonishing bravery, as to make them think of abandoning their defences, and those within the fort, to make preparations for retiring; when a resolution as precipitate as the first, directed these brave troops to withdraw from the attack, and make the best of their way to lake George: this unfortunate affair cost at least 2000 men. The other measures undertaken by the English on this Continent, were happily executed; among these we shall enumerate the taking of fort Frontenac, situated on the river St. Lawrence, by colonel Bradstreet on the 27th of August, the garrison consisting of only one hundred and thirty men were made prisoners, and the fort was demolished. General Forbes marched from Pennsylvania, against fort Du Quesne, the taking of which it was known, would greatly obstruct the communication between Canada and Louisiana: his advanced guard under col. Grant, by approaching too near the fort, perhaps with a design to take it, by a coup de main, suffered a defeat; but when the main body shewed a resolution of mastering the fort, the garrison wisely abandoned it; and general Forbes took possession of it without opposition. Thus once more the British flag was hoisted on those walls, the property of which had been a principal cause of contention. The fort was now called Pittsburg, with a propriety that need not be pointed out.

In Africa, a quarter to which the British arms have seldom adventured, new acquisitions were added to the British crown, which reflect equal honour to him who framed the design, with any of those in America, though perhaps of less importance to the nation; thus were the plans of operation as extensive as they were vigorous: a small armament was sent in the
month

month of March, principally under the direction of one Mr. Cumming, a quaker, who communicated the intelligence to the ministry, on which the design was founded, though it was nominally commanded by commodore Marsh; they entered the river Senegal, notwithstanding the obstruction of a dangerous bar, and on the first of May obliged fort Louis, which commands the river, to surrender. This was the first successful expedition undertaken during this war. The victors attempted to take the island of Goree, another French settlement on this coast; but their force being unequal to the strength of the place, they found it necessary to relinquish their project. However, the ministry perceiving the good effects of the first enterprize, equipped another expedition for the conquest of Goree, appointing commodore Keppel to the command of the ships, and lieutenant-colonel Worge, to that of a detachment of troops, whom they sent. These officers found the island extremely strong by nature, but badly fortified: the commodore attacked the fort with such spirit and resolution, that in a little time he compelled the garrison to surrender at discretion. The place was garrisoned by English troops, and those at fort Louis, were reinforced, which done, the commodore returned to England; as did admiral Boscawen, from America; likewise general Abercrombie, from the same place, whose conduct, like that of his predecessors, had fallen under the disapprobation of his countrymen.

Since Mr. Pitt came into the administration, a remarkable spirit of enterprize and resolution diffused itself among all the military and naval commanders, that indolence, indifference, and caution, which was so conspicuous three years before, was now entirely banished, and activity, zeal, and fearless execution seemed to reign in every breast; and this was wholly effected by the influence, sagacity, and intrepidity of the minister. The British cruizers,
covered

covered the seas and scoured them of the enemy's trading vessels and privateers. Admiral Osborne was stationed in the Mediterranean, to protect the British commerce in that sea, and prevent a French squadron equipped at Toulon, from coming into the Atlantic sea. The principal part of this squadron commanded by M. De la Clue, he blocked up in the Spanish harbour of Carthagená, while the rest commanded by the marquis Du Quesne, formerly governor of Canada, not being then equipped, came soon after to reinforce his colleague, when falling in with part of the English squadron, two of his ships were taken, viz. the Foudroyant, of 84 guns, in which he was himself, by the Monmouth, of 64 guns, commanded by captain Gardiner, who was killed; and the Orpheus of 64 guns; another was drove ashore on the coast of Spain, and the fourth and last escaped.

At the beginning of the year it is said, there were some divided opinions, concerning how the theatre of the war should be made: some persons whose well-meaning may not be disputed, but whose weakness and pliancy were always for clogging the interest of Great-Britain, with measures of an extraneous and incumbering nature, were for bending the dignity and importance of the national affairs, to the fervility of being secondary concerns to those of Germany; they were for embarking our whole land force, to the assistance of prince Ferdinand, to enable him to keep the French on their own frontiers, which these *most sagacious* politicians said, would bring matters to a speedy decision. The real friends of Britain, who were enjoined in the guidance of business of this high import, and had but lately come into power, urged as the primary object, the destruction of the French marine; the shaking their internal security by expeditions to their coasts; not upon any account weaken our efforts in America, which however would be, in case

we did embark our force for Germany: they said an army of 50,000 foreigners, maintained at our expence, was certainly enough in Germany to keep the French at bay; for they looked upon continental operations, in only a secondary light, and the sending our troops thither, as squandering away our men as well as money, whereas were they employed in continually alarming the enemy's coast, it would employ and harass the French troops at home. The popularity of these latter, brought their opinions to prevail. Two squadrons were fitted out by the latter end of May, which filled the French coast with terror: the greater was commanded by lord Anson, destined to watch the enemies ports, and to prevent their ships from incommoding the landing of the troops; the lesser was commanded by commodore Howe, with whom embarked the duke of Marlborough, with 13,000 men, and a train of artillery; this force the commodore safely landed on the 5th of June, in Canelle bay, near St. Malo; the town being found too strong to attempt, they set fire to an hundred sail of shipping in a basin, under the cannon of the castle, without its ever offering to fire a gun at them; they likewise burned several magazines of naval stores, and did other considerable damage to the enemy: having nothing further to do, they reembarked without molestation, and reconnoitered the coast towards the town of Cherbourg, but their provisions being short, and the soldiers sickly, by being so long cooped up in the transports, they returned to St. Helens on the 29th. Though this expedition was successful, did great damage to the enemy, and proved that he was vulnerable upon his own coast, yet did the old leaven continue to haggle for an acquiescence to their own projects, and attempt to modify their construction on something that was German; perhaps they were importuned by our German friends, and their solicitations proceeded in consequence, as well as their

their uneasiness, and dislike of measures, that were conducted on a single principle. These new men in office, found there was no other way to preserve harmony, but capitulate with their opponents; therefore, they consented to the sending the duke of Marlborough, with a body of British troops to Germany. This, they knew, was enervating our power at home; and, if the expeditions to France should be continued, which, considering the expence of first equipping the squadrons, would much better be done, than let the ships lie idle; they could answer no end, but exposing us to the langor of our enemies, by being, with a handful of men, only enabled to make little deultory efforts, and immediately obliged to embark, perhaps, with difficulty and hazard; all which, in the end, proved to be the case, and yet, by being circumstanced amidst embarrassments, they could not prevent the evils. In the second expedition, the command of the land forces, not amounting to 6000 men, was given to general Bligh; his royal highness prince Edward, now duke of York, entered as a volunteer with commodore Howe: On the 6th of August they were landed near Cherbourg, where they destroyed the mole, pier, basin, sluices, floodgates, and many other excellent works for making a complete, convenient, and strong harbour; begun, but not yet finished, at a prodigious expence to the French king: they burned some vessels, which they found in the harbour, and took hostages for the payment of contributions which they levied; and put on board the ships twenty pieces of brass cannon and two mortars, which they found in the place. This ordnance was brought to England; and, for a while, lay in Hyde-Park for public view, and were afterwards carried in childish and ridiculous triumph to the Tower. Many people considered this parade, as calculated to keep the people in good humour to support the charges of the war; and it must be owned these sights forcibly

strike ordinary minds, but is it not strange to see men of sense intoxicate themselves in this low, illiberal manner, and fall passively down into the tumultuous torrent of the ignorant, inconsiderate, and contemptuous rabble, and mingle in person and opinion, with this scum of human nature, that are a disgrace to our country? On the 16th the troops were re-embarked, perhaps, with a design of visiting some other part of the enemy's coast, but the fleet was driven to the coast of England, where it remained only two days without landing the troops, and then returned to the coast of France: A second time the troops were landed near St. Malo; it is astonishing to think what the general could mean by this disembarkation, since the duke of Marlborough with a superior force, had done all that possibly could be done in this neighbourhood—except he meant to take the town; but finding he could not, he imprudently marched into the country, while the fleet, for the better convenience of receiving the troops, moved into the bay of St. Cas, or St. Cast. However, upon having certain intelligence brought him, that the duke d'Aiguillon, with a superior force, was in full march against him, he resolved, to return to the ships; yet from some unaccountable fatality, though the troops were not far from the shore, a great deal of time was unnecessarily and prodigally thrown away, in performing this retreat. Most people apprehend, that, with prudence, the troops might have been re-embarked unmolested; as it was, the enemy, though at a much greater distance, gained the beach as soon as the English: It is true, the major part of our troops were put on board the transports, before the enemy ventured to appear; but the rear-guard, composed of grenadiers, and the first regiment of guards, amounting, in the whole, to about 1500 men, under the command of major general Dury, for Bligh was gone on board the fleet, were at this time on the beach.

Dury

Dury following the dictates of rage and despair, permitted the enemy without hindrance, to assemble in great numbers in his front; and, when that was done, he attacked them; his efforts were seconded by the frigates and bomb-ketches, ranged along the shore, the troops fought in a most courageous manner, and their bravery was worthy of a better fortune, in a little time their ammunition was expended, and they of course, gave way before superior numbers; the enemy at first gave no quarter, but the ships ceasing to fire, clemency was shewn, and part of our troops surrendered at discretion; the rest jumped into the sea and were drowned, among whom was Dury himself. Some few were carried to the ships in boats; but a much greater number might have been saved, had the sailors emptied their boats into the first ship they came to, and returned directly to the beach for the rest; but instead of that they infamously preserved a punctilio, in carrying the troops to the particular transport they came out of, without considering the distance of the situation. The fleets returned home, and went to France no more. Bligh suffered greatly in his reputation; and, as some think, undeservedly. The people of England were dispirited by this affair, and those of France elated; both, by far more than they ought to have been, considering it was a transaction of but little moment.

On the 23d of November, the parliament met, when the supplies amounted to the enormous sum of 12,761,310*l.* which was unanimously granted. The rest of the business transacted, during this session, was principally relating to private matters, which in this epitome, we cannot take upon us to particularize. The session closed on the 2d of June, 1759.

The inclinations of the powers at war were not the least altered at the beginning of this year from what they were at the close of the last: however,

the plan of operations in Germany was something different; last year the king of Prussia and Prince Ferdinand acted independently; this year they resolved to act in concert: it was designed to first destroy the Russian magazines in Poland, while prince Ferdinand should drive the French towards the Rhine, and getting between them and the army of the empire, cut off their communication; prince Henry was to rush out of Saxony, and cut off the communication between the Imperialists and Austrians; and count Daun and the king of Prussia were left singly to oppose each other. The first part of this plan was executed with success: so early as the month of February, the Prussian general Woberfnow, destroyed as many magazines in Poland, as would have subsisted 50,000 men for three months. In the month of April, prince Henry executed his part with equal celerity and good fortune; the king of Prussia making a motion, which drew the Austrians towards Silesia, the prince entered Bohemia; and turned the army of the empire into Voigtland; where he skirmished with them to advantage, and raised contributions in the country; he even disabled Franconia from giving them any assistance, but as he found Prince Ferdinand had not succeeded, and that the French army could succour them, he returned to his old situation in Saxony. Prince Ferdinand purposing to drive the French troops from Francfort, which they had illegally seized, and from which they derived no small advantage, as it secured to them the course of the rivers Maese and Rhine, by which they could receive supplies and refreshments, he, in the month of March, put himself at the head of a corps of the allies, and advanced to execute this design; but the duke de Broglie, with a considerable detachment of the French troops, posted himself in a very strong and judicious manner at Bergen, between Francfort and Hanau; which post, prince Ferdi-

Ferdinand found it necessary to force, before he could penetrate to Francfort. Lord George Sackville, who commanded the British forces, protested against such an attack as rash and imprudent: however, prince Ferdinand ordered the prince of Isenbourg, to attack the enemy's intrenchments, which he did with great intrepidity, and was repulsed; twice more he returned to the charge, and in the latter fell, with near 2000 of his countrymen. Prince Ferdinand, finding it impossible to force this post, withdrew, while the French with a prodigious superiority obliged him to retreat, and act on the defensive until the month of August; when having followed him to the town of Minden on the Weser, M. Contades, who was still the French commander, resolved to give him battle; the vicinity of the two armies, for several days, had made prince Ferdinand apprehensive of such a step; but he did not expect it on the day it happened: he was conscious, that they intended to deprive him of the course of the Weser; and that was one of the principal advantages they expected to derive from an action: therefore general Wangenheim, with a considerable corps, was entrenched at Dodenhau-
sen, on the banks of the Weser, while the rest of the army was encamped at a small distance near the village of Hille. On the last day of July, Contades gave his orders for fighting; he directed the duke de Broglie to march in the dead of the following night and early in the morning to force Wangenheim, who it was apprehended was not strong, and place himself between the allied army and the Weser, while Contades, should on a sudden surprize the Prince in front. Broglie, to his great astonishment, found Wangenheim's troops drawn up in excellent order, entrenched and defended by a numerous artillery; this discovery put a stop to his operations. About the same time Contades fired upon Hille, which alarmed the allies, who forthwith put themselves in order, expecting the French were
come

come to give them battle; but finding them not so near as they had apprehended, they advanced to the plain of Minden, and there saw the enemy. Broglie attacked Wangenheim with great vivacity; but the artillery was so admirably served against him, that his troops recoiled, and he found it necessary to retire. Contades directed his cavalry to charge the allied infantry, whom he perceived to be advancing: here the brunt of the action fell: six regiments of English infantry and two battalions of Hanoverian guards, sustained the efforts of the whole French centre, consisting of horse, the flower of their cavalry and the strength of their army, with a resolution and expertness in their manoeuvre, as perhaps never was equalled. During this conflict, orders were sent to the British and Hanoverian horse on the right, commanded by lord George Sackville, divided from the infantry by a wood, to come up and sustain the infantry; but the commander apprehending these orders to be not sufficiently explicit and consistent, he hesitated in the execution, by which it is believed by some, that the precious moment was lost. The British infantry having defeated the French cavalry, and there was no horse at hand to effectually finish the work: others say, that had these orders been immediately obeyed, his lordship could not come up time enough to have had any share in the action *.

There

* We shall not pretend to give our own opinion in this nice point of controversy, we shall only endeavour to elucidate it as far as we are able. It is supposed, that lord G——— S——— had early in the campaign, shewn a dislike to prince Ferdinand's plan of operations, and from hence arose a difference between them; the English officer, who is naturally haughty in his behaviour, resolved to carry himself with that spirit of independence, that scorns to pay servile court to foreign hirelings; his extensive understanding, penetrating eye, and inquisitive spirit, could neither be deceived, dazzled, nor soothed into tame acquiescence: this was diametrically opposite to what the German general would have been glad to have found; the opportunities which he had
of

There was a strange confusion this day; the artillery had no orders till very late, and the engineers were galloping about the field in quest of orders, when aid du camps ought to have spared them the necessity of quitting

of making a fortune, would not have been opposed, had the commander of the *pay-all*, been a docile, pliant tool, whom he might make to believe whatever he pleased, and mould into all his views. By exhibiting many marks of a prying disposition, L—G— at length became so disagreeable to the commander in chief, that nothing seemed to be so eagerly desired, as an opportunity for removing him. The designs against the enemy were kept a profound secret from him; and he was omitted at the military councils whenever it was possible: hence is it in the least to be doubted that the German general determined in the first battle, to so manage in sending his orders to him, as to puzzle him in the execution of his duty? For which end, during this action, two expresses were sent to the English officer, almost at the same instant, the one for him to march with the cavalry under his command, which was begun to be obeyed; when a second express came, [the intended puzzler] directing him to bring the British cavalry only; as this step would break the line which lord George could not think the prince intended, he went to the commander, who ordered him to bring up the whole, but then it was pretended they were too late for service, and were therefore ordered to dismount, because they should not pursue. That this was all a scheme to perplex lord G—— may be easily gathered, from an account of the battle published at the Hague, by the authority of P—— F—— himself; wherein it is expressly declared, that the cavalry on the right was not destined to sustain the infantry, and that if it had really been designed for action, it would have been posted in another place. Let not an English mind startle at this information, time may perhaps shew the whole affair is consonant with the character the German general bears. It is asserted by the Duc de Belleisle, that the evening before the action, there was laid upon Ferdinand's table, the order of the battle, precipitately drawn up by M. Contades himself; by which Prince Ferdinand perceived that the French Marshall was so impatient to give battle, that he had not taken care to secure the passes in case of a retreat. Without doubt Contades's impatience was the rock on which he split; but with regard to the order of battle, it is rather to be doubted than affirmed; for the circumstances of the action clearly shew, that the whole army of the allies, except the corps of Wangenheim, were surprized, and therefore Prince Ferdinand had no such previous information. After the battle prince Ferdinand paid some compliments to several officers for their gallant behaviour; but although the
English

quitting their stations: at length, lord George Sackville directed them to proceed to the front, where they were of the utmost service towards obtaining the victory. Contades, finding that his cavalry could not resist

English had the greatest share in obtaining the victory, yet he cast a cloud over their triumph, in some unmanly expressions, that convey'd a severe reflection on lord G——: he in his letter of thanks, required with an emphasis, that his orders for the future be punctually obeyed: he expressed his concern, that the Marquis of Granby, had not the command of the British cavalry; and observed, that if it had been so, the action would have been more complete. The oblique insinuation concerning the disobedience of orders, and the invidious compliment to a subordinate officer, were strong, and we will venture to say, malicious reflections on the conduct of lord G——S——; because they contained nothing positive, which a brave and honest man, unconscious of design, would not have been afraid to assert. As soon as these dark and censorious implications were published in the London Gazette, the people were in an instant alarmed, they grew outrageous in their indignation against lord G——; he was branded by the rash, ignorant, and infatuated multitude, as a traitor, and a coward: the German war being popular, and the people obstinately adhering to the prejudices they had espoused in its favour, the not having done any thing in Germany, was worse than neglecting the real national good in America; he was stigmatized with the most virulent insult and abuse that the most savage breast could suggest, while a parcel of scandalous and libellous pamphlets were poured into the hands of the public, teeming with invectives, falsehoods, reports, and every piece of infamy, which the cruel assassins could devise. Is it not strange, that men of sense, should give encouragement to such catch-penny traffic, and suffering their temperament to be over-ruled, join in the out-cry of an enraged and ignorant mob, who, knowing no moderation, rise up in a blaze and infamously stigmatize a reputation before they are positive of one circumstance that is bad? How hard then is the case of our officers, who have such a rash, impatient, and capricious people to please; who upon any error in which an officer happens to fall, without investigating his merit, or considering the affair, become clamorous to a degree of persecution. As soon as that extraordinary letter of thanks, or rather monkish litany of Saints, for it had all the air of one, was given out, lord G——S—— resigned his command. This legend of compliments was merely farfical; for a few days after, prince Ferdinand published, as a codicil to his will, a letter to captain M'Beane of the artillery, making a kind of reparation for having

resist the British infantry, and that these troops broke every corps before them, ordered a retreat, which the duke de Broglie covered in a very excellent manner. The loss of the French amounted to near 7000 men, slain and prisoners; that of the allies exceeded 2500. The vanquished retreated across the Weser, and for want of subsistence they precipitately fled off towards Cassel: the allies took several towns in the pursuit, and laid siege to Munster; but the French

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having omitted his merit, which it was impossible his highness should not know, if he was not ignorant of the transactions of the battle, and innocent of the victory. Lord G——— S———, returned to London, just when the flame was at its utmost height, and when every mouth was opened with execration against him: he had moreover, the mortification to hear the name of the German general extolled throughout the whole kingdom, in raptures of exaggeration, and even in childish and ridiculous hyperbole; while plaisters of praise ignorantly composed, were stupidly laid on his shoulders, as if he was so infernally black as to have need of such purification; and while as, the most glorious mark of r—— approbation, he was invested with the order of the garter, and presented with 20,000l. the English general was dismissed from every employment he held under the government. Will it hereafter be believed that Englishmen took such pains to blacken their own country's honour? that they would suffer themselves to be deceived by the tools and emissaries of p— F—, and the friends of a foreign cause, of which to speak in the softest terms, is alien to their interests? and contrary to the established law of their country, condemn unheard? Are these proper rewards for tamely lavishing our blood and treasure? Lord G———after being acquainted with the particulars of his imputed guilt, solicited, and at length obtained a trial, by a court-martial, to whom it appeared, the orders of prince F——— had not been obeyed, and notwithstanding many eligible circumstances appeared in his lordship's behalf, both as to his being kept ignorant of orders previous to the battle, and as to his willingness to obey all intelligent orders, and many other things which the reader may see recited at large in the authentic copy of the trial, to which is annexed a plan of the battle, yet he was adjudged unfit for future service, and the king ordered the sentence to be read at the head of all his troops, and struck him off the list of privy-counsellors.

relieving it, they set a bound to the progress of their arms, leaving the enemy at the conclusion of the campaign, just where they had found them at the beginning.

Notwithstanding the destruction of the Russian magazines, early in the year, that power nevertheless put its army in motion about the same time as usual; and these troops, numbered at 7000 men, commanded by count Soltikoff, prosecuted their march to Silesia. Count Dohna, who commanded the Prussian army in those parts, finding them too numerous for him to attack with any prospect of success, contented himself with watching their motions and harassing their march: though this conduct was extremely prudent and justifiable, yet the king of Prussia, fired with his usual precipitation and impatience, disapproved of it; upon which count Dohna resigned, and general Wedel was ordered to take the command of the army, and at all events to fight the Russians. Accordingly, on the 23d. of July he with 30,000 men attacked their advantageous post at Zullichau, near Crossen; and after maintaining the conflict with great resolution, though under many difficulties, for several hours, he retired with the loss of at least 8000 men; in consequence of which, the Russians gained possession of Crossen and Francfort upon the Oder. The king of Prussia, exasperated by this defeat, resolved to give them battle himself, and immediately separated from his army a considerable corps, with which he began his march to join the troops of Wedel, leaving prince Henry with the remainder to observe count Daun; but this able general knowing the king of Prussia's design, detached a body of 12000 horse under general Laudon, to the assistance of the Russians, and by extreme good fortune this junction was effected: however, the king of Prussia having assembled an army of 50,000 men, determined to give them battle: and accordingly, on the 12th of August early in the morning

ing, he found the enemy in an entrenched camp at Cunnerdorff, defended by an incredible number of cannon; he attacked the left wing with great bravery, and after a bloody dispute of six hours, he mastered a defile and several redoubts, took a great number of cannon, and obliged the enemy to begin to retreat. At this juncture he dispatched a billet to his queen, couched in the following terms, “ Madam, we “ have beat the Russians from their entrenchments : “ in two hours expect to hear of a glorious victory.” But he was deceived ; the Russians were not yet defeated : they had retired indeed to a place called the Jews Burying Ground ; but this was an eminence, and the most advantageous post, which in these circumstances they could have chosen : however, he resolved to drive them still further, though this enterprize was of the most difficult nature ; his generals perceiving this rashness, unanimously represented to him, the imprudence of attempting to push the advantages they had gained any further ; the enemy were still numerous, had a vast artillery, the post which they occupied was of great strength, his troops had been engaged a long time in the severest action they ever knew, and one of the hottest days they ever felt, were too much fatigued, for such a new assault, an assault that might even stagger fresh troops ; they urged that the advantage which he had gained, would be as decisive in its consequence as that at Zorndorff ; that the enemy would soon be obliged to retire into Poland, and he would be at liberty to act in other quarters where his presence was more necessary. All these excellent arguments weighed as nothing, he obstinately adhered to his fool-hardy resolution. Thus rejecting every thing that was prudent, and actuated by frenzy, he began a new attack which was beyond his strength. Now putting all to the hazard, his fainting army with some little remains of unexhausted ardor, fought against the enemy’s im-

pregnable situation. These feeble battalions being uncovered with cannon, because they could bring none up, and the enemy having recovered from their consternation, were repulsed with great slaughter; yet still did the king of Prussia, with a mad and inhuman perseverance, order them to return to the charge; when being routed with greater slaughter, he in a wild ungovernable passion of despair and revenge, put the affair to the cavalry, notwithstanding the horses as well as the riders had been previously spent; they made several unsuccessful efforts, and being entirely broke, the Austrian cavalry which had hitherto been inactive, fell amongst them, threw them into utter confusion and completed their destruction; the remains of the army, which but lately had been victorious, were now seized with a panic, and dispersed in the best manner they were able, without any thoughts of preserving their baggage, cannon, or one single utensil; life alone was the prevailing consideration, and night preserved them from total ruin. The king had two horses killed under him, and several balls went through his cloaths. There was scarce a general, or even an inferior officer in his army that was not either killed or wounded. His loss was greater in this action than in any he had ever seen before; at least 19,000 of his troops were slain, a great number were made prisoners, all his baggage, cannon, and every thing he brought into the field, fell into the hands of his enemy. When he abandoned this horrible scene, he dispatched another billet to the queen, thus expressed, "Remove from Berlin with the royal family. Let the archives be carried to Potsdam. The town may make conditions with the enemy." It is not difficult to conceive the terror and confusion this intimation produced at Berlin, in the midst of their rejoicings occasioned by the first messenger. The loss of the conquerors amounted to about 11 or 12,000 men.

men. Next day the king of Prussia retreated over the Oder, and began to collect his fugitives ; in a little time he recovered from his disorder, without any obstruction from the enemy, and drew a fresh train of artillery out of the stores at Berlin. He saw with joy and astonishment, the enemy's forbearance to improve their victory ; they, instead of overwhelming him with ruin, or advancing towards his capital, contented themselves with joining count Daun in Lusatia, and holding consultations with that general ; in which it is more than probable the Austrians were not willing the Russians should take possession of Brandenburg, therefore his safety flowed from this jealousy or disappointment. In the mean time the army of the Empire had penetrated into Saxony, and reduced the towns of Hall, Leipzig, Torgau and Dresden. The king of Prussia apprehending the Russians had a design on Great Glogau, took post in such a manner as to cover the town ; while count Daun, suspecting prince Henry of Prussia, intending to retake Dresden, made a forced march in order to save that capital. The Austrians and Russians being thus separated, and the latter baffled in their scheme on Great Glogau, and beginning to think of retiring, the king of Prussia, formed a plan for cutting off count Daun's retreat into Bohemia : he detached general Finck with 20,000 men to take possession of the defiles of Maxen behind the Austrians ; which was no sooner done, than Daun reconnoitred his situation, and resolved to attack him ; for this purpose he first secretly surrounded the Prussians, and on the 24th of November, Finck perceived the enemy's approach on every side. In this emergency, he began to think of foiling their attempt in some part, so as to obtain a retreat ; for a whole day he made the most intrepid efforts to disengage himself ; but it was impossible : the enemy's numbers had secured every avenue.

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Next morning he saw the enemy on every side, presenting a wall of bayonets, through which it was madness to think of penetrating, considering his great loss on the preceding day: therefore he surrendered with the whole army prisoners of war. This was a terrible blow to the Prussian power in the present critical state; yet while the king of Prussia was staggering under it, he felt another; a body of his troops posted on the Elbe, opposite to Meissen, was on the 4th of December, attacked by the Austrians, and between 3 and 4000 of them were killed and made prisoners. While the king of Prussia was suffering under these misfortunes, he received a supply from prince Ferdinand, who detached the Hereditary Prince to his assistance, the king hoping by this means, to gain some advantage over M. Daun; but this general acting with so much caution, that he finding it impossible, the Hereditary Prince returned to the allies, who by this time had recommenced the siege of Munster, and reduced it. After these transactions all the armies went into winter quarters.

The war in America had for its grand object the reduction of Canada; which the ministry proposed to effect by attacking three parts at once, in order to divide and distract the enemy's attention: a fleet was dispatched from England in the month of February, commanded by the admirals Saunders and Holmes, with whom, according to the plan laid down, major-general Wolfe, with 8000 men, was to proceed up the river St. Lawrence, to Quebec, the capital of the province; while general Amherst, who commanded in chief, with 12,000 men, should reduce Ticonderago and Crown-point, and proceed along the river St. Laurence, join general Wolfe, and lay siege to Quebec: the third body under the command of general Prideaux and Sir William Johnson, was to reduce the fort of Niagara, and proceed to Montreal, the other principal city

city in Canada. The armament designed against Quebec, sailed up the river St. Lawrence, and in the month of June arrived at the isle of Orleans, a little below Quebec. The general immediately took possession of this island, and also of a point of land on the continent that was opposite to it called point Levi; which was within cannon shot of the city. Quebec, was not only well fortified and defended by a numerous garrison, but likewise covered by the marquis de Montcalm, with an army of 10,000 men, regulars and provincials, posted in a very advantageous manner. General Wolfe resolved to attack the enemy's entrenchments at Montmorenci; for this purpose, the necessary dispositions were made, and the grenadiers were landed, with orders to form on the beach, and wait until a reinforcement should be sent them; but they instead of obeying this prudent direction, the moment they were on shore, rushed impetuously on the enemy and were repulsed and thrown into disorder; upon which the general ordered them to be drawn off. This was a discouraging circumstance, as there appeared a multitude of difficulties in every step that could possibly be taken, and as it was the only one that seemed to wear a feasible appearance; the general lost here a great many men, which together with the miscarriage made a deep impression on his mind; which being too great to brook with censure or disgrace; he began to dread the cruel clamours of his invidious and ungrateful countrymen; who are so ready upon any disappointment, even where an officer has done all in his power, to brand him with infamy; he was often heard to sigh, and in the transports of his chagrin to say, he would never return without success, to be exposed as other commanders had been to the censure and reproach of an ignorant and ungrateful populace. How truly piteous is such a case! As soon as he recovered, he sent a letter to Mr. Pitt, particularising every transaction and difficulty;

culty. After a deliberation with the officers, it was determined to proceed up the river, and make their efforts on that side of the town, for which admiral Holmes was ordered to sail higher up the river than the place appointed to land at, in order to draw the enemy's attention that way; and so far it answered, that Montcalm detached 1500 men to watch this fleet, on board of which was general Wolfe with about 5000 men, the rest being left at Orleans and Levi; while admiral Saunders, made a feint to attack the enemy's entrenchments below the town. On the 13th of September, at one o'clock in the morning, the troops were put into the boats and glided softly down under cover of admiral Holmes, to the intended place of disembarkation; where with admirable courage, but with great difficulty, they ascended one by one, the woody precipices, and at length gained the summit; they were drawn up in order by general Wolfe, who was one of the first that landed. This place was called the Heights of Abraham, and are said to command the weakest part of the town. Montcalm, was no sooner informed that the English had gained this advantageous ground, than he resolved to give them battle, and immediately began his march; but the English troops reserved their fire, until the enemy advanced very close, which was no sooner done than they made terrible havoc among them; but just in the moment when the fortune of the field, began to declare in favour of the English, general Wolfe was killed by a shot in the breast*; the troops, however, preserving their spirit, drove

* The circumstances attending the death of this young hero, are too curious and too affecting to be passed over in silence. He first received a wound in the wrist, but that he might not discourage his troops, he wrapped it up in his handkerchief, and encouraged his men to advance; soon after he received another ball in his belly; this also he dissembled, and exerted himself as before;

drove the enemy from every post, and at length totally defeated them with the loss of their general. Five days after the town surrendered, without being besieged in form. While these vigorous operations were pursuing, general Amherst on his side, advanced to Crown-point, which, as well as Ticonderago, the enemy had abandoned on his approach; then he prepared to cross the lake Champlain, but finding the season cold and boisterous, he postponed the remainder of his measures until the next campaign; thus the great end of an open communication with general Wolfe, was not effected, and that general, as we have seen, was left to the exertion of his single strength. The third part of the plan was not less successful. General Prideaux advanced to fort Niagara, which by its situation awes the Five Nations, or those Indian tribes which lie to the northward of the lakes; he laid siege to it, but the operations had not long been carried on, before he was killed

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before; when he received a third in his breast, under which he at last sunk, and suffered himself, unwillingly, to be carried behind the ranks. As he lay struggling with the anguish and weakness of three grievous wounds, he seemed only solicitous about the fortune of the battle. He begged one who attended him, to support him to view the field; but as he found that the approach of death had dimmed and confused his sight, he desired an officer, who was by him, to give him an account of what he saw. The officer answered, that the enemy seemed broken; he repeated his question a few minutes after with much anxiety, when he was told, that the enemy was totally routed, and that they fled in all parts. Then, said he, "I am satisfied;" and immediately expired. His death was greatly lamented by his country, and envied by all who had a true relish for military glory; unindebted to family, or connections, unsupported by intrigue or faction, he had accomplished the whole business of life, at a time, when others are only beginning to appear; and at the age of thirty-five, without feeling the weakness of age, or the vicissitude of fortune, having satisfied his honest ambition, having compleated his character, having fulfilled the expectations of his country, he fell at the head of his conquering troops, and expired in the arms of victory.

by the bursting of a cohorn; upon which the command devolved upon Sir Wm. Johnson, who pushed on the siege with great alacrity, insomuch, that the French, apprehending the place in imminent danger, and being sensible of its great importance, immediately collected a body of forces and marched towards the place with a view of raising the siege; but general Johnson gave them so warm a reception, as ended in nothing less than a total defeat; upon which the fort surrendered and the garrison were made prisoners.

These, however, were not all the attempts made for crushing the French power in America. A design was formed in England, for taking the island of Martinico, upon a representation that it was extremely practicable. Accordingly, early in the month of January, a fleet of ten ships of the line, commanded by commodore Moore, having on board general Hodgson, with six regiments of infantry, appeared before it; and having landed without opposition, they found so many obstacles to the conveyance of cannon before they could approach the capital fort of the island, that the land commander deemed them insurmountable, while the naval officer held it impossible to put the cannon ashore nearer to the fort. A jealousy, or disagreement, arose between them, and the consequence was, after terribly alarming the whole island; the reembarkation of the troops on the same day that they landed. Judging it impossible to do any thing at Martinico, they sailed away for Guadaloupe, in hopes of better fortune. On the 23d of the same month, they appeared before Basse-Terre, the capital of the island, which being cannonaded and bombarded by the fleet, was in several places set on fire, and continued to burn all that and the following day, when the inhabitants and troops quitting the place, retired into the mountainous part of the country, and permitted the English to land without opposition.

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Soon after, general Hodgson died of a fever, which proved fatal to a great many others, and the command devolved on general Barrington, who embarked the forces and sailed to the other parts of the island, where he reduced all the principal towns; but it was not until the first of May, that the whole island, or more properly speaking, the two islands, which are denominated Guadaloupe, surrendered. This surrender was hardly made, when a French squadron appeared to the relief of the island, but finding they were too late to do any good, they sailed away. Had they come a day sooner, they had probably saved the place. Before the end of the month the island of Marigalante surrendered.

In the East-Indies, the British arms were not less victorious. After Lally's misfortune before the king of Tanjour's capital, he resolved to lay siege to Madras, which work he began on the 6th of January, and continued in a slovenly, ridiculous manner, until the 6th of February, without doing any material damage to the place, and which he raised in the utmost transports of rage and despair. The besieged now sallying out, took the field against him, but being at present too weak to undertake any thing important, they contented themselves with executing detached expeditions until the month of September, when it was resolved to attack Lally in his strong camp at Wandewash; but the assailants were severely repulsed and obliged to retire in confusion. After this, colonel Coote, an officer lately arrived from Europe, was ordered to take the field, and the army being considerably reinforced, he reduced Wandewash and several other places of less importance. Mean while colonel Ford in Bengal, defeated a considerable number of French in Bengal, and took Masulipatam; and captain Richard Maitland, being employed on an expedition against the Seapoys at Surat, possessed himself of the town and castle with-

out much loss. During these transactions at land, the dispute still continued between the French and English squadrons. On the eighth of September, they descried each other near Pondicherry; and on the 10th, a sharp engagement began, which raged with great fury for two hours, when the French being sick of the fight desisted and fled: the English however were so much damaged they could not pursue, but having refitted, they returned to Pondicherry in quest of the French squadron, intending to bring on another engagement; but as soon as the enemy perceived their approach, they precipitately put to Sea and outailed the English, who were about this time joined by a reinforcement from Europe, under the command of rear-admiral Cornish.

The great extension of the British trade in this quarter of the globe, excited the jealousy and envy of the Dutch, who secretly formed a scheme for extirpating the English out of Bengal; they tampered with the nabob Jaffier Ali-Cawn, and he connived at their intentions. Their first aim was to engross the whole salt-petre trade; a part of which, they enjoyed by their factory at Chinsurra, where they had a strong fort on the river Bengal, higher up than Calcutta. The governor of Batavia, having charged himself with the execution of this roguish action, chose the opportunity while the British squadron were absent; and having equipped seven ships, and put on board them 12,000 troops, on pretence of reinforcing the Dutch garrisons in Bengal, they sailed for the river of Bengal, and in October, three of them arrived there. Colonel Clive, who resided at Calcutta, having notice of their design, sent word to the Dutch commodore, that he could not allow them to land their forces and march to Chinsurra; but no sooner were the rest of the troops arrived, than the troops were landed, and began their march for Chinsurra. The Dutch commodore, by way of retaliating the affront he

he pretended to have received, in being denied a passage to Chinfurra, took several English vessels on the river; and one of the Indiamen coming down at that time, he told the captain, that if he presumed to pass he would sink him; upon which the vessel returned to Calcutta, where colonel Clive, ordered three Indiamen that were there to go and fight the Dutch; and they obeyed this order with so much vivacity and courage, that they compelled three of the Dutch ships, with the commodore, to surrender; two ran away and they drove the last ashore. In the mean time, the Dutch troops were not more fortunate than their ships: colonel Clive detached colonel Forde, with 500 men, to oppose their progress; on the 25th of November, he met with them and gave them battle with great resolution; in a short time they gave way and were totally defeated: during this action, the nabob, with a considerable army looking on, observed a suspicious neutrality, and in all probability would have declared for the Dutch, had they proved victorious; but no sooner had the English gained the victory, than he offered them his service. The Dutch finding their whole scheme defeated, began to think of accommodating matters; a treaty was concluded, by which the ships were restored; and the prisoners were released as soon as the Dutch factory at Chinfurra had given security to indemnify the English for the damage they had sustained. How similar is this to the affair of Amboyna? how timid are we to suffer it to pass unrevenged?

The British naval transactions were as brilliant and successful as the most sanguine wish could desire. Though the French were in possession of the island of Minorca, yet the English squadron in the Mediterranean, plainly evinced it was of very little service to them; for notwithstanding the many pretended benefits arising from this possession, they could not protect their marine. Admiral Boscawen, who had succeeded

succeeded admiral Osborne, appeared before Toulon; and though he received some damage from two forts which he attempted to destroy, yet it shewed the spirit and bravery of an English admiral. Having retired to Gibraltar to refit, M. de la Clue, who commanded the French squadron in Toulon, seized the opportunity of sailing, hoping he should pass the Streights-mouth unobserved, and then proceed to join the grand fleet at Brest, which the French had equipped with a view of invading England; but the vigilant Boscawen had stationed cruizers at several places, to keep a good look-out, and give him timely notice of de la Clue's approach. Accordingly, on the 17th of August, signal was made of the enemy's being on the Barbary shore; upon which, the English squadron sailed in quest of them, and fell in with seven ships off Cape Lagos, the rest having separated in the night. Boscawen run along side the French admiral and began a furious engagement; but being necessitated to change his flag, his antagonist in the interim escaped to land: however, two ships, one of 64, and the other of 74 guns were taken, who had also run to the coast, another was bulged and burned, and de la Clue having quitted his ship, she was taken by the victors, who finding it impossible to get her off, destroyed her.

The French spent this summer in meditating and preparing an invasion of the British dominions: All their ports on the ocean were full of men of war and transports, and flat-bottomed boats. They talked of a tripple embarkation, one from Dunkirk against Scotland, under the direction of M. Thurot, a bold adventurer; who, from a captain of a privateer, in which he had greatly annoyed the English trade, became a commodore in the king's service. The second from Havre de Grace against England, which being the shortest voyage, was to be attempted by flat-bottomed boats. The third, supposed to be
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against Ireland, was to be made from Vannes, where the troops lay encamped under the command of the duke d' Aguilhon, and were to be conducted by the Brest squadron, commanded by M. Conflans. Had this design been such as it was represented, and had it been put into execution, there is no doubt but it would have caused great confusion. But the excellent measures taken by the British government, frustrated the projects of the enemy whatever they were. Thurot was blocked up in Dunkirk, by a squadron commanded by commodore Boys. The brave and vigilant admiral Hawke, with a large fleet confined Conflans in Brest; he likewise kept a watch upon the design at Vannes. Admiral Rodney was dispatched from England, with a proper squadron to bombard Havre de Grace, and destroy the preparations there, which service he performed with tolerable success. However, they continued their preparations with great celerity, and they seemed resolved at all events, to hazard the transportation of a body of troops from Vannes. Even when winter approached, the same resolution was pursued, perhaps from an expectation that the tempestuous weather would compel the British navy to take refuge in their own harbours, and their fleets might then come out unopposed. This hope was not disappointed: Sir Edward Hawke was by a violent storm obliged to quit his station off Brest, and to come with his whole fleet to Torbay. The enemy availed themselves of his absence, and on the 14th of November put to sea. The whole English nation was alarmed, but not confused. And now the event of the whole war was to be put to the issue, for on the good or ill success of this stroke every thing depended. Admiral Hawke lost not a moment's time, he put to sea on the same day that Conflans did, and judging that the rendezvous of the enemy's fleet would be at Quiberon, he directed his course for that Bay: after beating
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against an high wind some time, he at length saw the desired object in his reach, but the situation was extremely dangerous ; the rocks, sands, and shoals, round about, were innumerable, the British pilots knew nothing of the place, the wind blew a violent storm, and the waves ran mountains high. Some commanders would have been intimidated in these circumstances, but Hawke considered the public safety, and was animated. He ordered his nearest ships to the enemy to engage, which they did, with great intrepidity. Conflans acted with ridiculous irresolution; he at first had two choices, either to fly, or stand and fight; for a while he followed the latter, but when it was too late, he pursued the former. Hawke, who was in the Royal George, ordered the fire of that great ship to be reserved for the French admiral, and directed his captain to carry her along side him ; but a French ship of seventy guns generously put herself between them ; here Hawke was obliged to bestow his fire, and at one broad side he sunk her to the bottom, with every soul on board; another French ship shared the same fate, and a third struck. The enemies fleet fled on all sides, and night saved them from utter destruction. However, two of the English ships, in the eagerness of the pursuit, ran upon a sand, and were lost. Seven of the French ships threw over their guns, and escaped up the river Villaine, and as many more put to sea. The night that succeeded this action, was perhaps the most terrible that can be conceived: the wind blew a violent storm all night long, it was a pitchy darkness, and a dangerous coast surrounded them. A continual firing of distress guns was heard, but no-body knew whether they came from friend or enemy : the badness of the coast, and the darkness of the night, made the hearers equally unwilling and unable to seek to give any assistance. In the morning they perceived the French admiral had run ashore,

as well as another ship; the first the enemy set on fire, and the other was burned by the victors. Thus the long threatened invasion, which was to repair the French losses in all parts of the world, was defeated, and a finishing blow, for this reign, given to the naval power of France; for during it they never undertook any thing of consequence. The squadron of M. de Thurot for a little while had better fortune. He escaped out of Dunkirk, and proceeded northward. Commodore Boys, who had blocked him up in Dunkirk, pursued him as far as Scotland, but to no purpose; he took refuge in Bergen, where he remained on account of the boisterous weather till January 1760, when he set sail in great want of provision for the coast of Scotland; he landed on the island of Isla, where he was informed of the defeat of M. Conflans; having refreshed his men, and obtained a comfortable, though a small supply of provisions, he set sail for Ireland. On the 21st of February, he effected a descent on that kingdom at Carrickfergus, and compelled a few troops in garrison there to surrender; he likewise extorted some contributions, but as a body of troops were assembling, he found it unsafe to remain on shore, and therefore re-imbarked. While this adventurer continued in these northern seas, the coasts of the two kingdoms were filled with alarm; but these apprehensions dissipated in a few days. Captain Elliot who commanded three frigates at Kinsale, being informed by a dispatch from the duke of Bedford, lord lieutenant of Ireland, of Thurot's situation, immediately set sail in quest of him, and on the 28th of February their squadrons, consisting of only three frigates each, came to an engagement off the isle of Man. During the conflict, Thurot was killed; soon after which his ship surrendered, and the other two followed her example.

These repeated disasters to the French fleet, as well as their losses in every other part of the world, reduced them to the necessity of stopping payment of the following public debts, viz. 1. The three kinds of rents created on the posts. 2. Those constituted upon the chest of redemptions. 3. The coupons of bills on the same chest. 4. Those of the two royal lotteries. 5. The reimbursement of bills drawn to bear on the same chest. 6. The bills of the two royal lotteries. 7. The rents created on the two sols per pound of the tenth penny. 8. The reimbursement of the capitals of rents. 9. The payments of bills dischargeable in nine years, known under the name of annuities. 10. Those of the new actions on the benefit of the farms. 11. All the bills drawn by the colonies upon the government, amounting to 1,233,000*l*.

On the other hand, the credit of Great Britain was risen to an astonishing height; the parliament met in the month of November, and having fixed the number of sailors to be employed in the ensuing year at 73,000, and that of the soldiers at 57,000, they granted for the maintenance of these forces and other uses, the sum of fifteen millions, five hundred three thousand, five hundred and sixty three pounds, a sum so enormous, that every individual who wishes well to his country, cannot reflect on without concern; a sum more than double the largest ever granted to the late queen Anne, when the nation retained half the powers in Europe in its pay. Of this immense sum, upwards of two millions, three hundred and forty thousand pounds was paid to foreigners for supporting the German war, exclusive of the money expended by our troops there, who did not amount to less than 20,000, besides the charge of transporting them and the heavy article of forage: we will
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be free enough to assert, that we can perceive no advantage arising to either Britain or Hanover from this connexion with the continent; we must, as Englishmen, also say, that we think the loss sustained by it, is apparent and grievous. Where then is the truth of that delusive tale, artfully spread among the people, and rammed down their throats, as the soldier does shot and powder down a gun barrel, about the protestant religion; the glory of fighting in Germany, and the diverting of the French, from which it was pretended our other operations derived great advantage, when to mention only one article, viz. the loss of so many hands from industry, husbandry, and manufacture, sufficiently evinces to the contrary.

During the winter, the kings of Great Britain and Prussia, made offers towards a general pacification; but they had no effect; perhaps because the French hoped to retake some of the places they had lost, and thereby be enabled to insist on better terms than at this time she could expect. The king of Prussia, by means of the subsidy which he drew from England, was still enabled to make head against his enemies; and the Austrians still hoping to recover Silesia again, resolved to attempt it; for this purpose, general Laudohn, with 49,000 men, was ordered to exert his endeavours; he entered that duchy, and immediately laid siege to Glatz; but finding it was likely to prove a difficult enterprize, because 23,000 Prussians, under the command of general Fouquet, were strongly posted at Landshut, had it in their power to disturb his operations; he raised the siege, and marched against Fouquet. On the 23d of June the Prussian entrenchments were forced after a bloody and furious conflict of five hours, in which both sides lost a great number of men; but what was left of the

Prussians, except about 3,000, who found means to escape to Breslau, were with their general made prisoners. Encouraged by this success, the Austrian general laid siege to Glatz, and with little trouble compelled the garrison to surrender; after which he undertook the siege of Breslau, but Prince Henry of Prussia advancing to its relief, obliged him to retire. The king of Prussia, who was all this time in Saxony, watching count Daun, finding that Silesia was made the scene of war, and that general Laudohn expected soon to be joined by the Russians, who for that purpose were in motion, quitted Saxony, and began his march for that duchy himself. Daun was no sooner informed of this movement, than he followed the king with such expedition, that in a little time he gained two days march on him. The monarch perceiving his design to be frustrated, suddenly returned into Saxony, and immediately laid siege to Dresden. Daun, finding himself duped by this stratagem, he returned with great rapidity, and obliged the king of Prussia to raise the siege. Thus disappointed, the king again began his march to Silesia, because the Russians were on the point of joining general Laudohn, and their junction seemed to threaten the loss of all Silesia: again Daun followed him; but he took possession of the camp at Lightz, where in a little time, he found himself in danger of being surrounded by his adversaries, who at this time formed a design of attacking him by surprise, upon which he altered his disposition on the 14th of August, and at two o'clock next morning, he was informed that Laudohn was in full march to attack him; upon which he posted a body of troops between that general and Daun, to prevent any attempts, which Daun might make, for the assistance of his colleague, while with the rest of his army he secured an advantageous situation.

tuation, for falling on Laudohn, as he advanced. This general did not perceive the Prussians 'till it was too late to recede ; so that in this situation he was necessitated to fight. The action began about three o'clock, and was maintained with great obstinacy till six, when the Austrians having lost in killed and taken near 8000 men, gave way, and the Prussians pursued them a few miles ; but the king, who on this occasion, displayed more prudence and skill than ever he had done before, would not suffer them to proceed any farther, lest Daun should succeed in a design he had formed, to attack the Prussians on another side, at the same time with Laudohn, for which Daun had actually begun his march ; but he was surprised to find the Prussians decamped ; soon after, perceiving the smoke of the action, he comprehended the king's management, upon which he resolved to succour Laudohn : but here again he was disappointed ; for the body of troops which the king of Prussia had excellently posted to prevent such design, Daun did not think proper to attempt to force. By this well conducted enterprize, the king of Prussia escaped the danger of a total defeat by two powerful armies, as well as prevented the junction of the Austrians and Russians. However, Count Daun in a little time laid siege to Schweidnitz, upon which the king advanced with his whole force to the relief of that place, and obliged the enemy to retire to Landshut. But in the mean time the Russians entered Brandenburg, and penetrated to Berlin, which they laid under contribution, and in its neighbourhood committed many cruel and horrid ravages.

The marshal duke de Broglio, who had been raised to the command of the French army, in consequence of the dismissal of M. Contades, whose
conduct

conduct in the battle of Minden had been disapproved, frequently disturbed the winter quarters of the allies. His army was augmented to 100,000 men; and a second army of 30,000 men was formed under the direction of the count de St. Germain. But these troops were hindered from taking the field so soon as the French court intended by the want of forage; an article which more powerfully affected the allies, for the necessity of obtaining it obliged them to fall back to Paderborn, and draw it from Bremen and Hamburg. Divers skirmishes were fought with various success, but none of them deserved to be ranked in an epitome of general history, because none of them were productive of any material consequence. In the month of July M. Broglio shewed a design of penetrating into Hanover through Hesse, and with this view he resolved to effect a junction with the count de St. Germain. Prince Ferdinand being informed of such intention resolved to prevent this junction, and chose a position accordingly: his advanced guard, commanded by the hereditary prince, attacked the enemy at Corbach, and met with a severe repulse; but he with difficulty effected a tolerable retreat, by making a seasonable and vigorous effort at the head of the British cavalry. However in a little time he found means to retrieve his honour; a body of the enemy having advanced to Exdorf, on the left of the allied army, he, unexpectedly, attacked them with great fury, and Elliot's regiment of English light horse bravely distinguished themselves. This corps of the enemy was routed. The duke de Broglio did not seem to take notice of these actions; he effected his junction with the count de St. Germain; but this latter, who was his senior officer, conceived a disgust to him, and relinquished his command, which was given to the chevalier de
Muy,

Muy, who the duke directed to cut off the communication of the allies with Westphalia, while he himself entered Cassel. The chevalier chose his situation near Warbourg, where prince Ferdinand resolved to attack him both in flank and rear, which he did with equal impetuosity and success. The marquis of Granby, at the head of the British cavalry, signalized himself in an intrepid manner. The enemy were compelled to fly with great precipitation, having lost about 1500 men and some cannon. While prince Ferdinand's attention was employed this way, marshal Broglio with great facility entered Hesse. Here we shall conclude our relation of the Germanic transactions, and proceed to finish those of America.

The French force in Canada, notwithstanding the conquest of Quebec, was still formidable. The fortifications of that city being in a ruined condition, general Murray, who was appointed governor of it, with 6000 men, began to repair them; but before this could be done the marquis de Vaudreuil, the French governor of Canada, collected his forces together, and in the month of April gave battle to general Murray on the heights contiguous to the town; from which, by their vast superiority, they compelled him to retire, and throw himself into the town, which they immediately besieged. However, as soon as the river was open, a squadron of ships, under the command of lord Colville, who sailed up the river, obliged the enemy to raise the siege and retire to Montreal, the only place which the French held in Canada. Against this place general Amherst directed his motions; he assembled his troops as early as possible at Oswego, and embarked his forces on board a number of battoes, and sailed down the river St. Lawrence till he came to the island of Montreal,

Montreal, where he landed in the month of September; and next day the marquis de Vaudreuil proposed terms of capitulation for the surrender of all Canada; which after divers amendments were agreed to.

In the East Indies, the British arms were not less successful. Colonel Coote, who commanded on the coast of Coromandel, having defeated general Lally in the field, obliged him to seek refuge within the walls of Pondicherry. He afterwards took several Indian towns, and at length laid siege to Pondicherry, which he reduced; but this latter circumstance did not happen till the succeeding reign.

In the West Indies commodore Holmes, who was stationed there, took and destroyed off Hispaniola, two French frigates, who were destined to convoy a fleet of merchant ships to Old France. But this vigilance did not distinguish the British transactions in the European seas; that spirit with which they had lately acted, seemed now to languish; and if we except the destroying a few boats on the enemy's coast, nothing was done during the whole summer. It is true, great preparations were made for a secret expedition; a body of troops were assembled, and the whole incurred a prodigious expence, but it served no other purpose than amusing the attention of the people: in a word, the whole season was spent in idleness and inaction, and then the design was laid aside. Thus an immense sum, which was granted for prosecuting the war with vigour was lavished on a fruitless parade, though perhaps had the armament failed, no attempt would have been made to annoy the enemy on British principles; in all probability it was designed to be employed either to favour, or to be subservient to the continental system, though at this
time

time the French possessed the island of Minorca in the Mediterranean, that of Mauritius on the coast of Africa, and that of Martinico in America; besides the great province of Louisiana, all objects of great importance.

At this period, the monarch died at the age of 77, and after a reign of 34 years. This event happened on the 25th day of October, between the hours of seven and eight in the morning at Kensington. He had rose at his usual time, without any apparent signs of indisposition. He called his page, drank his chocolate, and enquired about the wind, as if anxious for the arrival of the mails, which had been detained in Holland a considerable time. He opened his window, and looked out for the æther from which the wind blew; and seeing it a fine day, said he would walk in the gardens. This passed while the page attended him at breakfast; but on leaving the room he heard a deep sigh, immediately followed by a noise like the falling of a billet of wood from the fire, and, returning hastily, found the king dropt down from his seat, as if in attempting to ring the bell, who said faintly, "Call Amelia," and then expired. He was instantly raised and laid upon the bed; the princess was called, who was told he was dead upon her entering the room, but being a little deaf, and her spirits being hurried by the alarm, she did not understand what was said, and ran up to the bed side, and stooping tenderly over her father, as thinking he might speak to her in a low voice, she then first discovered he was dead; this shock so sudden, so unexpected, and so violent, threw her into an agony. His majesty, in the fall, received a small hurt on his temple, and his physicians and surgeons being sent for, came instantly to his assistance, but

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without effect. An attempt was made to bleed him, but the issues of life were dried up *.

King George was in his person well shaped and erect, but he was rather below the middle size. His complexion was fair, his nose high, and his eyes large. His mein was majestic; and he wore age so extremely well, that time sat on his countenance with a grace; perhaps not a little owing to his regular way of living, which was temperate and extremely methodical. In his temper he was sudden and violent, and these passions are suspected to have sometimes made an impression on his conduct which tended rather to wound than increase the affection of the people; perhaps some disgraces in the course of the reign were too precipitately made, and perhaps for trifles, which, it is easy to conceive, will inflame parties,

* The cause of a monarch's death is always enquired into with such minuteness, that it may be thought necessary to give the following account of what appeared to the serjeant surgeons on opening the body. On opening the belly they found all the parts in a natural and healthy state, except that on the surface of the kidney there were some watry bladders, which, they said, could not have been at this time of any material consequence. On opening the breast, they observed the pericardium, or bag, which contains the heart, extraordinarily distended, which was owing to a large effusion of blood that had been discharged therein, from a rupture in the substance of the right ventricle of the heart. The quantity of the blood in the pericardium, was at least a pint, the most part of which was strongly coagulated. The rupture of the ventricle, and the consequent effusion of blood in the pericardium, were certainly the immediate cause of his sudden death. The brain, lungs, and all the other parts, were in a perfect state.

This case is said, by the faculty, to be of the most extraordinary kind, because he was of a healthy constitution, unaccustomed to excess, and far advanced beyond that period of life when the blood might be supposed to flow with a dangerous impetuosity.

parties, not extinguish them. Some cool and steady friends to the constitution, thought they decried a want of patience and condescension to pursue an healing measure, which till the year 1757 was not accomplished: others, who saw him surrounded by a set of v——l m——s, whom we characterised in page nine, under the denomination of whigs or courtiers, abated in this imputation, and considered those adults in prostitution, partiality, and prejudice, as the cause of many evils: however it must be acknowledged, that to some of his servants he exhibited extraordinary marks of favour and protection. In his disposition, he was merciful; and on numberless occasions, humane. On the suppression of the rebellion, which happened in his reign, his behaviour was not remarkable for either severity or clemency. The excesses committed in Scotland, he neither commanded nor approved. He has been censured as parsimonious, and this censure is not without foundation; in many branches of his private œconomy, his attention descended to objects which a great king should overlook. That he reserved money by being less munificent and liberal than ought to distinguish a king of Great Britain, and that he expended this money on account of his Hanoverian subjects, may be gathered from his frugal conduct in England, his general attention to money, his remarkable and most extraordinary love for them, and, on his decease, his wealth being found to be far inferior to what the people of Great Britain had in general apprehended. He appears with greatest lustre in the character of a soldier; in that capacity he loved war, studied it as a science, corresponded on the subject with some of the best officers in Germany, and, above all, was personally brave. The faculties of his understanding were not either lively or brilliant*;

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* See the famous speech of Sir William Wyndham in the year 1733.

he shewed little concern or encouragement for the arts, and exhibited a less generous regard to genius and learning. It will always be remembered, and cast a blemish, that in a reign of thirty-four years, the English literature was not honoured with any attention from the throne; it only flourished under the indulgence of the public, and even this indulgence received a check by a law, subjecting all dramatic pieces to the inspection of a licenser. To say he was perfectly acquainted with our constitution, would, in the opinion of some men, be paying him as disputable a compliment, as to say he perfectly knew our language. However it must be acknowledged, he was a thorough statesman with regard to the affairs of Germany. It is true, his government seldom deviated from the established forms of law*; yet it was distinguished by a close attention to the interests of Germany, and his mind marked by a strange affection for that country, and his reign was not less remarkable for German wars; in all which, Great-Britain was constantly plunged, either to trim the balance of power, or enter into trammels, for the defence of the protestant religion, but always to carry the great purse and supply the best troops†; it was likewise

* Except the frequency of cabinet councils be considered as a deviation.

† In the midst of one of these destructive wars the monarch's decease happened. Destructive we call it, because never since the days of ignorance and barbarism, have men been slaughtered with such wantonness and profusion, been exposed to the unparalleled miseries of winter campaigns, to distempers, to the rigour of the season, to perishing by want of food, to insupportable fatigues, and other innumerable hardships, all imposed in contempt of humanity, and in despite of nature. Such is German discipline! and such the feeling of German generals! who without the least consideration of the lives of men, prodigally sacrifice them upon many an useless and mad exploit. Britain has severely felt these woes, the flower of her arms have been

likewise distinguished by a certain weakness, which we wish the future historian, who may be more free had not cause to mention; however, we must beg leave to observe, that from some cause, which we will not pretend to define, the British ambassadors and consuls at the foreign courts, made but a mean figure, in which their importance was lost, the national honour tarnished, and its interest injured, they were in general, men who were unfit for this kind of service; they had not abilities and spirit, to give credit and weight to their negociations, and other duties of their office: At home, a certain meanness and a long pusillanimity, were no less conspicuous; a number of weak, low-minded, sordid and self-interested men, rose into divers parts of power, and from a fatality as inglorious as it was impotent; some of them, who never knew how to manage a shilling of their own money, were at different times entrusted with a great share of the management of the public treasure; not less injurious was the ingrafting on the constitution a standing army; the reign was long, and it was of course, chequered by a variety of events. His court was not so remarkable for brilliancy, good humour and

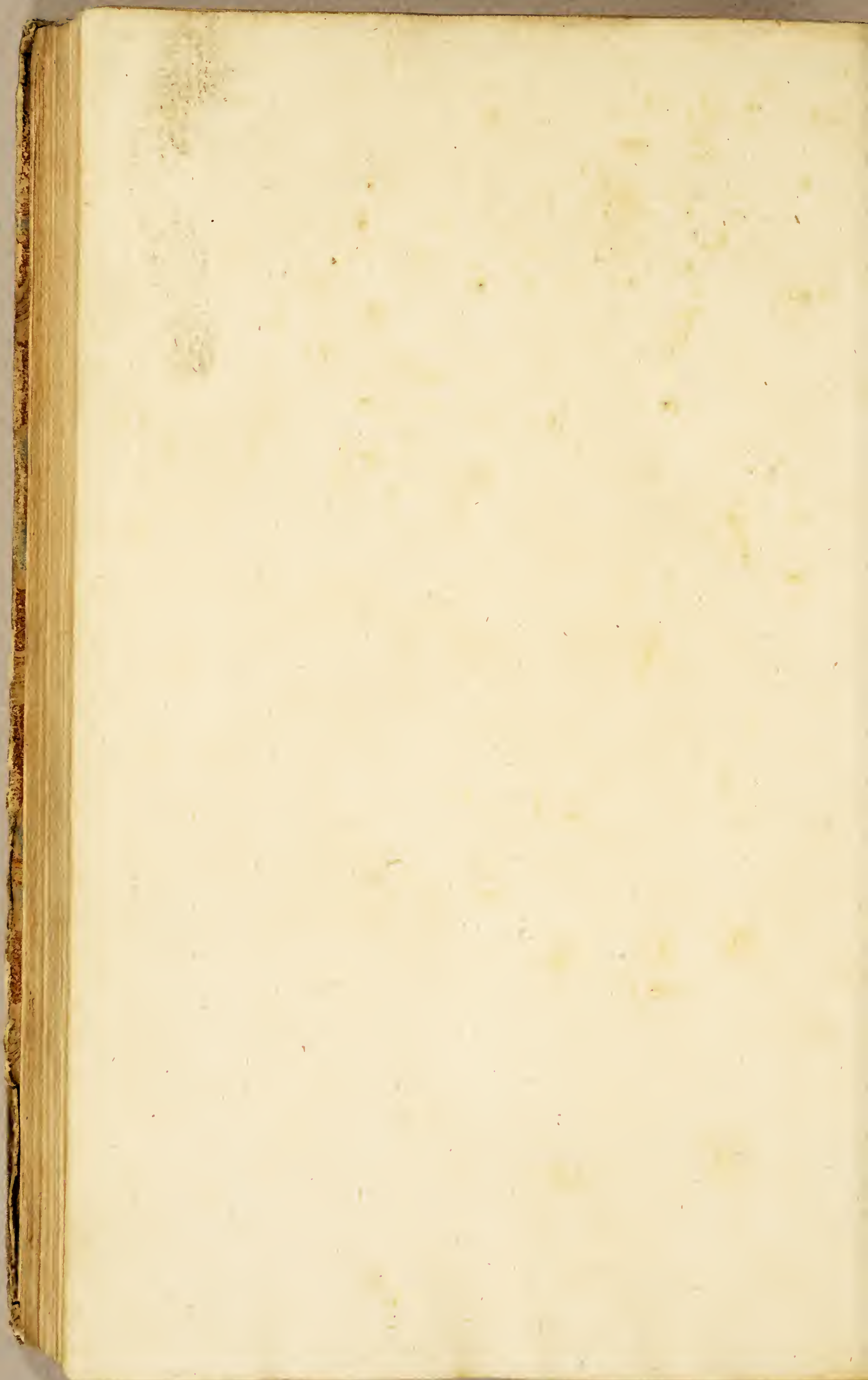
been slaughtered, or carried off by disease and hardships, in those inhospitable regions; her inhabitants have been saddled with the most grievous impositions, to support ungrateful allies, from whom she could receive no benefit, and by whom as a reward for so liberally pouring out her many good things, she was at length deserted; then by supporting another in a quarrel purely his own, from which she can derive no benefit, and with which she has not the least connexion; whose private and public character concur in testifying he is of the blackest die; whose faith has been so often forfeited, and is held in such distrustful repute, that nothing will be hazarded in saying, he will no longer be an ally, than while he is paid for it. Thus by the exportation of her treasure and men, she is bleeding to death; she is still chained down Prometheus like, to the rock of Germany, for its vultures and eagles, to drain her blood, and prey on her heart.

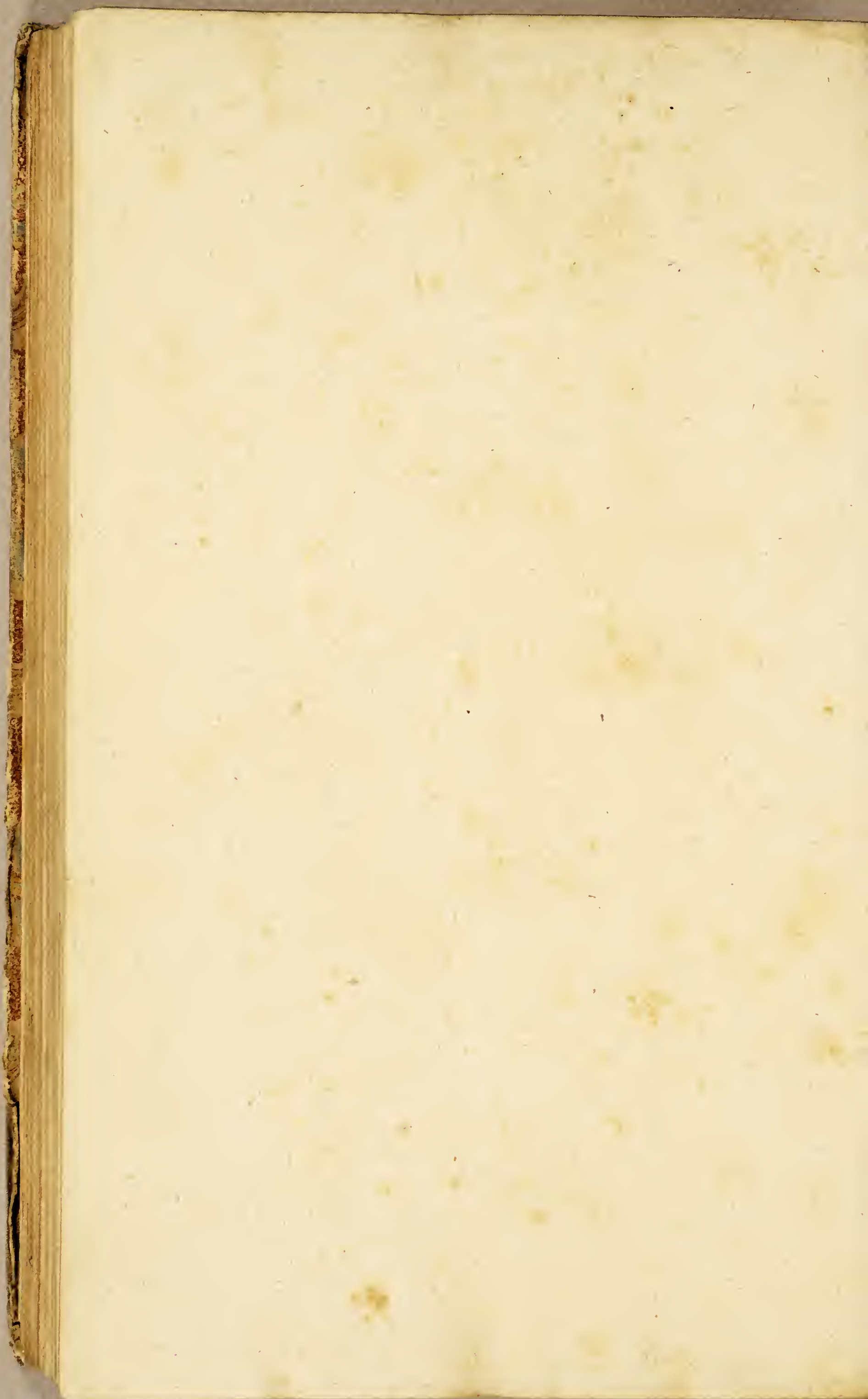
and spirit, as for the honour of our country we could wish; there appeared in it an ungracious reserve, and a still rotation of insipid forms, which joined to a fullen calm, failed not of rather disgusting the visitor, than affording him the least room for admiration. He lived to see the spirit of party extinguished, though it was not until towards the close of his reign, to enjoy the comfortable satisfaction of having his family firmly and immoveably seated on the throne, to experience the fullest measure of his peoples affection, and to see the intrepidity of his arms and the power of his kingdoms, raised to a higher pitch of success and glory, than it was once thought they possibly could arrive at : When all these were accomplished, it was his earnest desire to see an end of the war. His disposition being naturally pacific, he was an enemy to no religion; he did not molest the free and full exercise of the powers of the human mind; among the many sects which divide and compose the people of Great-Britain; this mildness and general toleration, will endear a respect to his memory, which the followers of all opinions will not cease to pay; they will likewise respect him because he reigned so long, and they will not forget that during his government they enjoyed many internal blessings, and if we except one momentary storm of war, an uninterrupted series of tranquility*.

* He was born in the year 1683. In 1706, he was elected knight companion of the most noble order of the garter; on the 2d of June following, was invested with the whole habit and ensigns of the order; and on the 22d of December 1710, was installed at Windsor, with the dukes of Devonshire and Argyle, lord Halifax being his proxy. In November 1706, he was created marquiss of Cambridge, earl of Milford-Haven, viscount Northallerton, and baron of Tewksbury. — It was observed by some of his friends, that it was a defect to give him the peerage of England, and not the precedence of all other peers. In 1708, he went a volunteer to make a campaign in the Netherlands, under

under John duke of Marlborough, on the 11th of July, the battle of Oudeunard was fought, in which putting himself at the head of a squadron of Hanoverian dragoons, commanded by lieutenant-general Bulow, he charged the enemy sword in hand, with the greatest intrepidity. His horse was killed under him, and colonel Lusechky, who commanded the squadron, was slain, by his side. On the accession of George I. to the throne in 1714, he was created prince of Wales. On the death of that monarch, he was proclaimed king of Great-Britain, and on Wednesday the 11th of October 1727, (O. S.) he was crowned in Westminster-Abbey, with his queen the princess Caroline Wilhelmina Dorothea, daughter of John Frederic, Margrave of Brandenburg Anspach, to whom he was married on the 22d of June 1705, and by whom he had two sons and five daughters, who lived to years of maturity, viz. Frederic prince of Wales, and William duke of Cumberland, Anne the princess Royal, married to the late prince of Orange, Mary married to the landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, Louisa married to the king of Denmark, Amelia and Carolina, who were never married.

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